EAST BAY EXPRESS

JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 2, 2010 · EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

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EDITOR'S NOTE — 4

YOUR COMPANY DOESN'T GET THE RESPECT IT DESERVES

That's why we are launching *Small Business Monthly*

More than 99 percent of all U.S. companies are small businesses, and more than half of all American workers work for one. In California, women own or co-own more than 44 percent of them, and members of a minority group own more than one third. Small businesses play a vital role in the economy and the lives of tens of millions of Americans. So why is it so hard to find meaningful news reporting about them? There is much fine business coverage in the Bay Area, but also way too much coverage of Apple, Google, Apple, Facebook, Apple, Twitter, and Apple. Small businesses touch far more lives than the iPhone, government, crime, Lindsay Lohan, or the Oakland Raiders, but try finding evidence of that in the local media. *Story Inside*

SMALL BUSINESS MONTHLY

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[illegible]

ENDORSEMENT — 11

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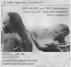
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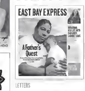

LETTERS

Measure WW [illegible]

Actually, Ten Years Ago

RE: "It was also the first to face an organized opposition campaign."

While it is true that Measure AA in 1988 was virtually unopposed, there was substantial bona fide environmentalist opposition to a 1998 East Bay Regional Park District parcel tax, including folks in the Regional Parks Association and former EBRPD Director Harlan Kessel. Apart from disgust with managerial styles, the critics sincerely believed the commitment to open up acquisitions for development was detrimental to the need to acquire as much as possible before sprawl set in, especially near newer parks on the I-680 corridor.

David Tam, Berkeley

A Father's Quest, Feature, 1/13

A Tragic Situation

My wife and I are co-directors of a large preventive intervention project sponsored by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention in California. The goal is to help fathers, especially low-income fathers, become more involved and stay more involved with their children. It is tragic that while one arm of the state is attempting to encourage fathers' involvement with their children, another arm of the state is making it as difficult as possible. Many kudos to Erin Gilm... are for a well-written and sensitive telling of a story with lessons for us all.

Philip A. Cowan, Kensington

A Biased Story

I agree with one thing in this article — the family court system is broken. The status quo of injustice in the family courts is staunchly defended by the very bad actors who cause the injustice and are enriched by it. Whenever I see a reporter resort to quoting a zealous fathers' rights activist like Glenn Sacks, I know for certain the story is going to be biased. Sacks' claim that courts are biased against fathers is false, and has been proven false in several peer-reviewed research studies.

The fathers' rights legal industry is a big money-making business, but there are no mothers' rights law firms that I know of. Why? Mothers don't control the purse strings in most families. Even though there are laws on the books that prevent one party from dissipating marital assets in a divorce, and starving their spouse out of a legal defense, they aren't enforced on behalf of women.

In virtually every custody case that I have reviewed, the father was abusive and controlling. He uses the courtroom as a tool to continue to control and abuse the mother.

And it is predominantly false that women make up allegations of abuse in order to win custody — the opposite is true, thanks to "friendly parent" provisions put into law by fathers' rights advocates. These statutes put an abused woman in a catch-22 situation. If she discloses the abuse, she stands to lose custody to the "friendlier" parent. If she doesn't disclose the abuse, she may lose custody anyway.

It's a shame that the media continues to buy into this myth about bias against fathers in family court. Fatherhood supremacists continue to spread this myth without evidence.

Carroll White Wadsworth Hanna
Co-founder Illinois Coalition
for Family Court Reform

Stay Out of Court

The courthouse is not the place to resolve issues involving the well-being of children who live with divorce in their families. It often seems like the worst place. Although I'm not sure where Supervisor Steele gets her figures, her estimation that the "court gets it wrong 80 percent of the time" is probably accurate.

In my divorce coaching practice, I strongly suggest to my clients that they work strenuously to do what they can to stay out of court, to work out as many issues as possible out of court because they will likely be unhappy — and their children will suffer — if the court decides.

I would like to further educate your readers with the perspective that the court's "abuses" are not limited to "dads of color." In my experience, the court deals quite harshly with mothers — white and of color — and often also with white fathers. The bottom line is that the litigation system, which "family court" is a part of, is not well suited to resolving issues pertaining to the care and well being of children in divorce situations. Instead, perhaps we should work towards shifting to an "alternative dispute resolution" model in family law matters.

Karen Juster Hecht, Esq., Certified Life Coach, specializing in divorce, El Cerrito

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EDITOR'S NOTE

YOUR COMPANY DOESN'T GET THE RESPECT IT DESERVES

That's why we are launching *Small Business Monthly*

More than 99 percent of all US companies are small businesses, and more than half of all workers are employed at one. In California, women own or co-own more than 44 percent of them, and members of a minority group own more than one third. Small businesses play a vital role in the economy and the lives of tens of millions of Americans. So why is it so hard to find news coverage about them? There is much fine business reporting in the Bay Area but also way too much coverage of Apple, Google, Apple, Facebook, Apple, Twitter and Apple. Small businesses touch far more lives than the iPhone, government crime, Lindsay Lohan or the Oakland Raiders, but try finding evidence of that in the local media.

Starting with this week's issue of the *East Bay Express*, we are addressing this long-standing lapse in coverage. Inside this newspaper and inside every issue on the last Wednesday of the month, you will find a copy of our new *Small Business Monthly*.

If you have seen the ads, you already know something about what you'll find. We will feature regular columns about the East Bay's retail scene and the ways in which government policies help or hurt small businesses. We'll have helpful advice columns from Berkeley financial planner Jonathan DeYoe and Oakland small business attorney Jenny Kassan and allow you to submit your own questions to local businesspersons or consultants. We'll publish a monthly business calendar containing opportunities to learn new skills and network with new people. And each month we'll publish a profile and feature story from a different business sector.

But wait, you say. Business coverage in the *Express*? What's up with that?

Business coverage need not be boring, banal or boosterish. It need not surrender its critical judgment nor worship at the altar of "too big to fail." We'll seek out businesses with new ideas and fresh points of view, because we know what many of you know — that small businesses are perhaps the most revolutionary force in society.

We'll also define small business more broadly than you're used to seeing. Sheet metal fabricators, law firms, and trucking companies are small businesses, but so are T-shirt makers, rock bands, and taco trucks. We'll write about all of them and look for the commonalities that unite them.

Like any other small business, *Small Business Monthly* is both a labor of love and a work in progress. I'm sure you can be counted on to let us know how we're doing.

— Stephen Buel

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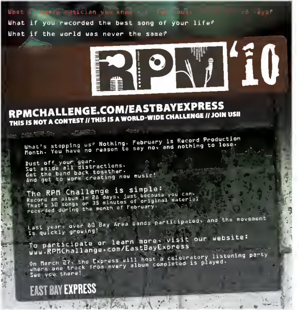

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

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SEVEN DAYS

WHY GAYS HAVE SO FAR TO GO

Writers at two major dailies demand "tolerance" for anti-gay bigotry

By Robert Gammon

Gays and lesbians have made a lot of progress in the past decade in their difficult struggle for equality. But if the columns of two Bay Area newspapers are any indication, then they still have a long way to go. On Monday, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the hometown paper of one of the largest gay and lesbian communities in the world, preached "tolerance" for those who spend large sums of money to strip gays and lesbians of a basic human right.

And late last week and over the weekend, *Chronicle* columnist Chip Johnson and *Oakland Tribune* columnists Tammerlin Drummond and Byron Williams essentially told the East Bay gay and lesbian community that the only way they'll ever attain equality is to shut up, get back in line, and don't dare challenge the status quo. It was akin to telling blacks and whites in the 1960s who fought to overturn anti-miscegenation laws that they would have achieved what they wanted sooner if they were nicer, more polite, and more "tolerant" of those who sought to deny them equality.

So why do the *Chron* and *Trib* sound as if they're stuck in some 1950s time warp? It appears that part of it has to do with how they view the fight for civil rights, and their opinions provide insight into why it has been so difficult for gays and lesbians to win the right to marry. *The Chron*'s Johnson, Drummond, and Williams all maintained that they support gay marriage. And yet they strongly criticized gays and lesbians who are attempting to block the reappointment of Lorenzo Hoopes, one of the biggest backers of Proposition 8, to Oakland's Paramount Theatre board of directors.

They said Hoopes had a right to spend $26,000 to illegalize same-sex marriage, and that his opponents should just stay quiet about it. But what if Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums had nominated someone who financed a campaign that outlawed interracial marriage? It seems highly unlikely that these same writers would be telling people to shut up.

In fact, their advocacy of silence ignores history. There is no evidence that bigotry has ever been defeated by keeping one's mouth shut or "tolerating" those who discriminate. One needs to look no further than the words of Martin Luther King Jr. in his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," when he argued forcefully against those who told him that he had crossed the line in the struggle for civil rights.

Secondly, it appears as if they completely misunderstand the First Amendment. They argued that Hoopes has a right to spend lots of money backing state-sanctioned discrimination, but that gays and lesbians have no corresponding right to challenge him. It's as if the First Amendment only protects him, as if the beliefs he holds had been persecuted for centuries. The reality is the Constitution does not take sides. It guarantees the free speech rights of both Hoopes and gays and lesbians. They have every right to mount a public campaign to stop his appointment to a public board.

The marketplace of ideas is a cornerstone of democracy. It can sometimes be a loud and messy process, but the premise is that when all the shouting is done, the best ideas will rise to the top. And eventually, bigoted and discriminatory views will be seen just as they are and discarded on the scrap heap of history.

Chevron to Close Refinery?

There's been speculation in recent weeks that Chevron may close its 100-year-old Richmond refinery because of declining revenues. Drew Voros, business editor for the *Tribune* and *Contra Costa Times*, blamed environmentalists and liberal members of the Richmond City Council who have fought to stem pollution at the refinery, claiming that they're forcing Chevron to close the facility. However, an industry expert quoted in the *Chronicle* said it's unlikely that Chevron will leave Richmond because there's too much money to be made in the California market.

Oil market analyst Allen Good of the Morningstar research firm noted that Chevron's West Coast properties are among its most profitable. Plus, if Chevron were to close its Richmond refinery, it would have to spend more money shipping gasoline blended in Southern California. "Those refineries may be safe," Good said of Chevron's California plants, including Richmond. "It could be some of the smaller ones that they have in the US that could take a hit."

Chevron has said that it plans to cut jobs and that its domestic refineries are losing up to $600,000 a day, but has not disclosed whether those losses apply to its California plants. The rumored Richmond closure also could be nothing more than an effort to convince environmentalists to drop their lawsuit that blocked a massive expansion of the Richmond plant last year because of concerns over increased pollution. Chevron also is likely apprehensive by a renewed city council effort to increase taxes on the Richmond refinery to make up for its impacts on the city.

Three-Dot Roundup

Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums exercised his power to break a city council tie vote for the first time last week, sending former Planning Commissioner Michael Lighty to the port commission. ... Dellums' personal financial woes also worsened when the IRS placed a new $13,638 lien against him for failing to pay enough taxes in 2008, pushing his total federal tax debt to more than $250,000. ... UC Berkeley is selling personal seat licenses that guarantee football fans lifetime rights to seats in hopes of financing a $320 million retrofit of Memorial Coliseum. ... An Alameda County Superior Court judge refused to issue an immediate restraining order against fraternities after neighbors filed suit, claiming that frat parties are out of control. ... Acclaimed Berkeley High football coach Alonzo Carter left the school to take over as head coach at Contra Costa College. ... And the state Supreme Court struck down limits on personal possession of medical marijuana, saying voters had the sole authority to make such restrictions. ●

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Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 32550.

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ECO WATCH

ON A ROLL

Walk Oakland Bike Oakland works grassroots and government angles to spread its message

By Nate Seltenrich

Escalating gas prices, the obesity epidemic, and global warming have done wonders for the national bike zeitgeist. But on the local scale, there's little progress to be made without an organized group lobbying for bike-friendly accommodations and a government willing to implement them. Oakland, it turns out, has both. And they often converge around a tenacious yet practical advocacy group called Walk Oakland Bike Oakland.

The three-year-old nonprofit is equally adept at community organizing and city planning. Originally established as an all-volunteer enterprise, it has gained considerable momentum and visibility over the last few years. To complement the work of an eleven-member board of directors and 24 committed volunteers, it recently hired its first paid staff member using grant money from Trek Bicycles and the Alliance for Biking and Walking.

Walk Oakland Bike Oakland's first campaign centered on the opening of the Whole Foods Market on Harrison Street near Lake Merritt in late 2007. The group's cofounder and vice chair Jen Jackson, who lives in the neighborhood, became concerned about increased traffic because of the market and the lack of pedestrian and bicycle access. So she canvassed her neighborhood for support and asked city Councilwoman Nancy Nadel to host a town hall meeting on the topic. Sixty people attended. "It was pretty clear that there was a lot of pent-up frustration in the neighborhood," Jackson said.

In the end, a number of recommendations from Jackson and her fellow advocates became move-in conditions for Whole Foods. Others have come to fruition since the store's opening, and still more are in progress. Successes include the installation of additional bike parking in front of the store, traffic-calming bulb-outs at Vernon and Lee streets, pedestrian crossing signals on Harrison Street and Bay Place, and bike lanes on Harrison between Orange Street and Interstate 580. "It's exciting," Jackson said. "The community has been incredibly involved. There's an untapped group of folks who would like to see more bike lanes out there."

Jason Patton, City of Oakland bicycle and pedestrian program manager, said he's grateful for Walk Oakland Bike Oakland's presence in city government, especially when it pushes Oakland to do things it normally wouldn't. "Working with organized groups who have views and positions is much easier than working with a heterogeneous public," he said. "It helps tremendously when there's a self-organizing factor in the community."

The next major battle for Walk Oakland Bike Oakland is taking place downtown and along one of the city's most prominent arteries. The organization is pushing for safe and uninterrupted bicycle access from North Oakland to Jack London Square along the Broadway corridor and has established a long-term public campaign around it called Bike Broadway.

The city committed to the new bike lanes in its amended 2007 Bicycle Master Plan — developed in part with Walk Oakland Bike Oakland's input. The lanes would create a continuous north-south route nearly five miles long through the heart of Oakland. In fact, Patton said the city plans to eventually construct bike lanes all the way up Broadway to Tunnel Road in the Oakland hills.

> "You build it and they will come. I really believe that. You build more highways and they will come. You build more bike lanes and they will come."

Of course, planning and implementing are two different things, so Walk Oakland Bike Oakland's gaze hasn't strayed far. First on its agenda: new bike lanes on the paired one-way streets of Franklin and Webster between 14th Street and Webster's terminus at 25th Street, as well as along Broadway between 22nd and 25th streets. Originally planned for this March or April, the city delayed the new bike lanes to spring or summer of 2011 so that they can be built while those streets are undergoing construction.

Concurrent with its work downtown, Walk Oakland Bike Oakland is pushing for improved bicycle and pedestrian access further up the Broadway corridor through the city's Broadway/Valdez District Specific Plan, which addresses redevelopment of a low-density and retail-deficient region between Interstate 580 and 23rd Street.

Walk Oakland Bike Oakland board member and treasurer Roger Miller is one of 35 people in the Broadway/Valdez community stakeholder group. As new proposals for the region surface, he works to integrate Walk Oakland Bike Oakland's vision. "What we want to have happen is pedestrian- and bike-friendly development," he said. "We don't want there to be an emphasis on promoting lots of big-box stores with huge parking lots."

Instead, he's fighting for street-level retail, proper bike lanes and parking, crosswalks, and sufficient street greenery and lighting. An initial public meeting takes place Thursday, January 28, at First Presbyterian Church, 2619 Broadway, where city staff will seek feedback on six proposals for the district.

With new downtown bike lanes in the works, and a pair of inaugural Sunday street closure events called Oaklavia planned for later this year, Jen Jackson is optimistic about Oakland's future as a bike-friendly city — even though funding and timing are likely to remain tenuous. "You build it and they will come," she said. "I really believe that. You build more highways and they will come. You build more bike lanes and they will come." ●

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PLAN B FOR MEASURE B

SunCal, the developer of Alameda Point, has submitted a last-minute new proposal for the former Navy base just before Tuesday's election

By Rin Kelly

The weeks leading up to Alameda's February 2 special election have been as dramatic as ever. On January 15, developer SunCal, whose self-drafted initiative is the sole issue on the ballot, submitted an alternative proposal for the crumbling Navy base known as Alameda Point. This "Plan B" to Measure B, the controversial 288-page mishmash of amendments and entitlements for what SunCal wants to build, contains the same base plan as the increasingly unpopular ballot measure but strips out some of the city's objections to the initiative and seeks to bypass Alameda's tough density restrictions by different means.

Both the plan that goes to the voters next week and the Plan B that SunCal recently filed with the city imagine a mixed-use, transit-oriented development of up to 4,346 residential units, 309 housing units from reuse of existing structures, and 186 existing collaborative housing units on the 770-acre site. Also included are approximately 145 acres of parks and open space, up to 350,000 square feet of retail and 3,182,000 square feet of other commercial and business park uses, plus up to 250,000 square feet for institutional and civic uses.

What's different in Plan B is the developer's approach to what is known as Measure A, the 1973 ballot measure that prohibits anything denser than a duplex and restricts construction to one housing unit per 2,000 square feet of land. The new application asks the city council to put forth its own initiative exempting Alameda Point from Measure A if Measure B loses. Alternately, SunCal argues, the same development can be built under the state-mandated density bonus law, which "expressly applies to" cities like Alameda, allowing higher-density developments to encourage construction of "affordable housing, senior housing, and child care facilities," SunCal's Pat Keliher wrote in a letter to the city accompanying the new proposal.

When SunCal asked in 2008 to amend its negotiating agreement with the city to let the developer place an initiative on the ballot, Alameda officials anticipated a measure that would simply exempt Alameda Point from Measure A. But SunCal's initiative asks the voters to approve everything from a general plan amendment to largely one-sided legal and financial terms that would otherwise have to be negotiated with the city. That unprecedented approach has inspired an equally unusual coalition of opponents, from Mayor Beverly Johnson, a former booster, to the local women's *Republican* club.

At issue for many opponents is the initiative's development agreement — a contract developers often ink with cities to ensure that particular planning guidelines apply over the life of a project. The development agreement in Measure B contains financial details that city staff say don't belong in an entitlement document, including a 2 percent property tax cap and a $200 million cap on the developer's obligation to fund public benefits. On a more basic level, argues City Attorney Teresa Highsmith, the document is "a little unfair to the community because the development agreement was not negotiated with the city and the community is being asked to vote on it."

SunCal's approach inspired an unusual coalition of opponents, including some former supporters

SunCal has said it will address the city's concerns in the actual land deal that must happen before any rights outlined in the development agreement vest. Such talks are ongoing as part of the company's exclusive negotiating deal with the city, which lasts through July. So even if Measure B fails on February 2, SunCal still has a seat at the table and will be able to push for its newly submitted alternative plan.

In fact, as part of that new plan, the developer has made a point of submitting a new version of its development agreement that removes the 2 percent and $200 million caps. Nonetheless, SunCal spokesman Joe Aguirre said that the company still believes Measure B will pass and is still urging Alamedans to vote for it. Aguirre said that if the measure wins, SunCal will still have to negotiate a separate disposition and development agreement with the city even if it contains terms that "are contrary or more restrictive" to those laid out in Measure B. SunCal also picked up a key endorsement for Measure B last week from the Greenbelt Alliance, a longtime supporter of urban infill development.

However, in an opinion released last month, Highsmith concluded that the initiative's development agreement contains language that suggests it would trump any other that came in conflict with it later. And then last week, mayoral hopeful Marie Gilmore, the only remaining neutral figure on Alameda's City Council, came down on Highsmith's side of the debate, joining fellow councilmember and candidate Frank Matarrese and likely candidate Vice Mayor Doug deHaan in calling for voters to defeat Measure B. In her January 21 announcement, Gilmore said that although she likes SunCal's land plan, over the holidays she "reluctantly" concluded that "Measure B had to be considered as written without regard to any post-election modifications or negotiations."

Although it remains to be seen whether the developer's new version of the Alameda Point project will pick up support from the many, like Gilmore, who have stated that they like SunCal's land plan but not the one-sided terms of Measure B, there are indications that the debate may be shifting again. Staunch initiative opponents Renewed Hope Housing Advocates, an affordable-housing nonprofit, released a statement calling Plan B an "encouraging development" that "could be a jumping off point for further negotiations in the future." But William "Bill" Smith, the nonprofit's vice president, said that SunCal still has a lot of work to do to regain the community's trust after a political campaign that has included tactics he described as being "misleading and calculating." ●

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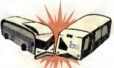

Doug Boehm

FULL DISCLOSURE

A PATTERN OF DISCRIMINATION

The threat to revoke funding for the Oakland airport connector may also imperil BART's plans for San Jose

By Robert Gammon

When news broke last week that the federal government was threatening to revoke $70 million in funds for the Oakland airport connector, BART officials acted shocked. But the complaint that prompted the warning should have come as no surprise. Attorneys who filed it have been battling with Bay Area transportation officials for years, arguing that they have engaged in a pattern of discrimination that benefits white suburban BART commuters over minority urban bus riders. And they contend that the feds' threat may also endanger BART's plans to extend service to San Jose.

The complaint that led to the review of BART's civil rights record was filed by **Guillermo Mayer** and **Richard Marcantonio** of the San Francisco-based Public Advocates law firm. Mayer and Marcantonio argued that BART had failed to examine the financial effects on low-income minorities as required by civil rights law when it decided to replace the $3 shuttle ride between the Oakland Coliseum and the airport with an elevated guideway that may cost commuters $6 each way.

Back in September, BART downplayed the complaint, saying it had already studied the issue. But Federal Transit Administration administrator **Peter Rogoff** wrote BART that agency officials admitted that they had failed to conduct the required equity review under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Rogoff ordered BART to conduct the analysis immediately and warned that if it failed to submit an approved action plan by March 5, his office would revoke the $70 million entirely. That would not only kill the airport connector but deprive other cash-strapped local agencies, including AC Transit.

The letter puts pressure on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which oversees state and federal transit funding, to make a quick decision on whether to gamble on losing the $70 million or earmark the money for other uses. AC Transit, for example, stands to receive $6.7 million. Even BART would receive $17 million for operating funds, thereby helping the agency avoid more cuts and fare increases.

MTC Commissioner **Tom Bates**, mayor of Berkeley, said he hopes Rogoff's letter puts a "nail in the coffin" for the airport connector, which he regards as a boondoggle. But BART spokesman **Linton Johnson** said his agency has received no indication that the MTC will vote to kill the project when it meets on January 27.

Marcantonio and Mayer sued MTC in federal court, alleging that the agency has historically funded rail projects for suburban commuters while presiding over dramatic cuts to inner-city bus service. The lawyers showed at trial that of $10.5 billion earmarked by MTC in 2001 for future Bay Area transportation projects, 94 percent was dedicated to new rail, and just 6 percent to new bus projects.

In a court decision last year, federal Magistrate Judge **Elizabeth LaPorte** agreed that MTC's funding priorities unfairly impact low-income minorities, but ruled that MTC does not purposely discriminate. Marcantonio and Mayer have since filed an appeal with the Ninth Circuit. As of earlier this week, MTC had not yet filed a response. MTC attorney **Kim Mannolius** did not return a phone call seeking comment. (Marcantonio and Mayer are representing different clients in the case against MTC than they are in the complaint against BART.)

Marcantonio also says that he does not believe that BART or the Valley Transportation Authority in Santa Clara County have conducted a proper equity analysis of the BART extension to San Jose. Because of funding issues, that extension may result in cuts to San Jose bus service that would likely hurt low-income minority riders.

In the end, however, the challenge to the airport connector and a future one against BART to San Jose may not stop either project. BART, for example, may be able to offset the impacts of its higher fares to the airport by providing discounts to low-income passengers who use the connector. Same with BART to San Jose. But such moves would surely drive up fares for everyone else, making the projects even more expensive for taxpayers. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.by/pvBART

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ENDORSEMENT

NO ON MEASURE B

It would prevent Alameda officials from crafting a good deal at Alameda Point.

Alameda's Measure B may be the most ill-advised local ballot initiative in recent memory. Not only will it likely go down to defeat in the Tuesday, February 2, special election, but it may have poisoned the water for a promising redevelopment proposal at the former Alameda Naval Air Station. The troubling thing is that it didn't have to happen this way.

Alameda Point developer SunCal rushed Measure B onto the ballot way before it needed to. The developer was trying to gain the upper hand in negotiations with the city by getting voters to approve its favored deal points before an actual deal was reached. In an *Express* story last June, courageous city staffers told Alameda journalist Kim Kelly that they strongly opposed the ballot measure because it would tie the city's hands. Interim City Manager Marie Gallant said vital parts of the measure would take away Alameda's ability to "negotiate what we think is in the best interest of the city."

Eventually, the backlash against the measure grew so loud that Mayor Beverly Johnson was forced to do an about-face after recording robocalls in favor of it. Now, nearly every member of city government stands together in opposition.

Nonetheless, some Alamedans are still urging residents to vote for Measure B anyway, arguing that SunCal will negotiate in good faith with the city and that residents should trust their government officials to negotiate effectively even if their hands are tied behind them. Measure B proponents also argue that a no vote will send SunCal packing, leaving the point as is for years to come. The proponents also note that the initiative would provide a necessary exemption to a 1970s era law that severely limits density in the city, known as Measure A.

First we should make it clear that we view Measure A as a racist initiative that was designed to keep people of color out of Alameda by blocking the construction of less-expensive apartments and condos. We also think it's long past time that Alamedans overturned this badly out-of-date law and started allowing urban development, especially at Alameda Point. We also believe that SunCal's vision is worth pursuing — if the developer, the city, and area transit agencies can solve the transportation problems that come with 4,400 new homes.

But we don't support Measure B. It will only reward the greedy intentions that put the measure on the ballot in the first place. We also doubt that the development team will back out now after pouring so much money into the project.

Yes, it's true that Measure B may have ruined SunCal's chances of ever fulfilling its plans for the point. And yes, voting no means that SunCal will have to come back to voters later to get that Measure A exemption. But when they do, we'll be among the first in line to endorse it. ●

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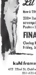

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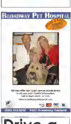
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ARTS & CULTURE

Conan Neutron

CULTURE SPY

BANDS OF COURAGE AND CONSEQUENCE

Conan Neutron plots to "Google Bomb" Karl Rove's new memoir

By Rachel Swan

Indie rocker Conan Neutron has colorful ways of describing George W. Bush's former Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove. He offered a few examples over beers at the Uptown Nightclub: "Master of lies and manipulation." "A man with blood on his hands." "Shameless torturer." "Lying salesman." "Gandalf behind the scenes." "Unconscionable soulless asshole." That's only the beginning. Neutron also faults Rove for "all these wars that we're still embroiled in, our economy being screwed, and gay marriage being used as a wedge issue." Then there's that "porcine face," which, according to Neutron, resists even the softest lighting or the finest airbrushing techniques.

"Did I say 'cocksucker?'" he added, his voice rising to a crescendo. Mere mention of the name "Karl Rove" is enough to get his blood boiling, and spur another fusillade of insults.

Neutron's well-entrenched animus stems from eight years of watching Rove serve as "Bush's brain," by issuing terror warnings and launching warrantless wiretaps, among other offenses. Like many of Rove's detractors, Neutron blames the erstwhile Chief of Staff for engineering concurrent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yet what really got Neutron was Rove's recent comeback attempt, in the form of a new, self-aggrandizing autobiography. The title was the real clincher, Neutron said. "*Courage and Consequence*? Are you kidding me?"

Even as the ink dries on the pages, Neutron is planning his own project to coincide with Rove's March 9 book release. Originally, he wanted to create a one-off band that would perform songs about Karl Rove and show "what the book should actually be about." The idea was to create a "Google bomb," like the one that Richard Kim and Betsy Reed created with their Sarah Palin parody *Going Rogue*. When Neutron broached the subject with friends, their response was so overwhelming that he decided to take the idea one step further. He devised an entire compilation of songs that go against the Rovian grain. He named the album *Karl Rove: Courage and Consequence*, in the hope that it would steal hits on Google and perhaps even trick right-wing book-buyers into purchasing the wrong product. Barring a lawsuit for copyright infringement, Neutron says his main goal is to mess with the retired politician "in some small way" — even if it only amounts to a few less book sales, or a slightly lower Google ranking.

To Neutron, Rove's memoir and book tour is the equivalent of playing a show at the Hemlock Tavern. "You pump the show. You set it up. There's a solid routine to it that basically includes a lot of people kissing your ass." Thus, he continued, even a beleaguered politician can find ways to steer clear of critics. There's a real danger that Rove could successfully reframe history, or at least capitalize on a legacy of bloodshed and domestic surveillance. It's enough to get an activist rock musician hot under the collar. "He needs to be answered, and I don't see that happening from anyone else," said Neutron. "So I've elected myself curator of that."

In fairness, he has all the right job qualifications. Thirty-one-year-old Neutron grew up in Modesto, where he was the small-town misfit with blue hair, guitar skills, and erudite parents — they named him for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. (He added the Neutron part in 1998 and won't reveal his real surname.) At age seventeen he moved up to the Bay Area, took a job in IT, and started the first in a series of offbeat rock bands, called Replicator. As frontman and lead guitarist, Neutron gave the band its distinctive nerdy stamp, writing songs with odd meters and Philip K. Dick references. Replicator enjoyed an eight-year tenure in the local club scene, and paved the way for Neutron's second band, Mount Vicious (which broke up in August). In 2004 Neutron helmed Bands Against Bush, a precursor to the Rove project with its own similarly seditious compilation. Neutron said that Bands Against Bush landed him on a federal watch list. He was sure of it, he said, because in 2005 all his parking tickets went immediately to collections, and he received jury duty notices about every six weeks. He couldn't pass through an airport security checkpoint without getting pulled out of line.

To complete *Courage and Consequence* in time for Rove's book tour meant Neutron had to follow a pretty aggressive timeline. He hatched the plan on November 29, which allowed him four months to corral the bands, record the songs, mix the album, and set the marketing campaign in motion. Neutron also formed a new band, called Victory and Associates. Then, he got to contribute an anti-Rove ditty of his own, entitled "Lies and the Lying Liars That Sell Them" (a spinoff of Senator Al Franken's new book). Victory and Associates will perform its first show on March 18 at the Hemlock, several weeks after *Courage and Consequence* hits the streets.

It seemed improbable: a protest album with no financial backing, no promotional machine, and a deadline that brought everything down to the wire. But Neutron saw himself as a fearless David ready to fight Rove at all costs, even if it meant selling plasma to press up a thousand copies of the LP. Even he was surprised by the sudden onslaught of support. Thirteen bands signed on, ranging from local favorites (Heavenly States, Poster Children), to relative unknowns (Lambs of Abortion, We're Gonna Fight the Falcons Nest). Some came so late in the game that Neutron had to request a prerecorded, premixed track. Even more shocking was the response from fans, who made pledges on Neutron's web site to help fund the album. Neutron responded, in typical fund-drive fashion, with a tiered gift system. Five dollars guarantees a digital download, twenty dollars gets a digital download and copy of the vinyl LP. "The sky's the limit," he said. "Donate a thousand dollars and you get to write something in the liner notes, a kiss on the forehead, dinner with me — I don't know." As of last week, the album was already 34 percent funded by outsider donations, enough to give Neutron a little courage and consequence of his own. Or as he put it, "It takes a village to fuck an asshole." ●

Event Details

Karl Rove: Courage and Consequence will hold its CD release at the Elbo Room (647 Valencia St., San Francisco) with performances by Generation: Cartographer, and Assistant Cobra. Wednesday, March 3, 9 p.m. KarlRoveBook.net.

To share this story, type: ebx.by/courage

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Adam Lamoreaux (second from right) outside Linden Street Brewery.

Brews to Cure Those Winter Blues

Linden Street Brewery ends the seasonal beer fest lull

Oakland is on the cusp of a veritable beer renaissance, according to Linden Street Brewery owner Adam Lamoreaux. As the restaurant scene keeps blossoming, a pub scene follows at its heels, led by places like the Trappist, Luka's Taproom, and the Chop Bar in Jack London Square. "The Trappist was a huge shot in the arm as far as showing what a beer city Oakland can be," said Lamoreaux. Yet, he continued, it was the first of many. In the next couple of weeks, a new shop will open on the corner of 3rd Street and Broadway as a combination high-end beer store and lounge space. Called Beer Revolution, it's inspired by the popular San Francisco retailer City Beer. In the meantime, local beer magnate John Martin (owner of Jupiter, Drake's, and Triple Rock) has designs on opening another Jack London Square hub, specifically for barrel-aged beers. "We're kinda lucky over here at Linden Street," said Lamoreaux, who got into beer as a teen, shortly after enlisting in the US Navy. "We're a production brewery, so we're making beers for restaurants and pubs, and sending them out. ... It's been a lotta fun being an outside part and watching it all go down."

In reality, Lamoreaux isn't just a peripheral part of the scene. Just a few years after opening Linden Street, he's become a big name around town, not only by supplying beer for the Trappist and Odessa, but also for developing his own vast army of original lagers. Lamoreaux started out with two original compositions called Urban People's Common Lager and Burning Oak Black Lager, for which he applied an Oakland theme to his personal brewing methodology: naturally carbonated and filter-free, meant to reflect the beers that Jack London quaffed at Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon. Since then, Lamoreaux has created unique lagers for a variety of East Bay organizations, including a bicycle-themed Velo Wonderland for the East Bay Bicycle Coalition and a lager called Bleeding Heart for the *East Bay Express*.

This Saturday, January 30, Linden Street will host a **Winter Brews Fest** featuring beers from about forty breweries — mostly local, some as far away as Oregon and San Diego. Given the strategic timing (one week before Super Bowl Sunday and SF Beer Week), it's a terrific promotional opportunity for all who participate, said Lamoreaux. And that's not to mention the thematic possibilities. Winter lends itself to heavy hitters: imperial stouts, barley wines, and barrel-aged beers. Most offerings at this event will be stouter, spicier, and more alcoholic than the average beer, all calculated to cure the winter blues. In comparison, Linden Street beers — which are about 5 percent alcohol on average — will be a sanctuary. Cosponsored by the Brewing Network podcast, Winter Brews Fest will also feature live music, hand-painted bikes, and food from Emergency Barbecue. At **Linden Street Brewery** (95 Linden St., Oakland) 1 p.m.-8 p.m., free. BrewingNetwork.com/outap

— Rachel Swan

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ATTRACTIONS

Downtown Artisan Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculptures, blankets, paintings, photography, dolls, soaps, clothing, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510-238-4938. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza @ 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland

Redwood Valley Railway Twelve-minute scenic journey by steam train through the redwoods of Tilden Berkeley Park. Info: 510-548-6100. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., $2 per ticket, or 5 tickets for $8. Tilden Regional Park, entrance off Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-548-2233

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FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

Menagerie Collective at the Regional Group exhibition by members of the Menagerie Art Collective, with live music and refreshments. For more info, visit MenagerieCollective.com. Fri., Jan. 29, 2 p.m., free. [illegible], 580 3rd and, Berkeley

Green 'til you Drop Bring a bag of clothes to share. Leftover items will be donated to Woodstock Child Development Center and Midway Shelter @ Alameda. Sat., Jan. 30, 2-5 p.m., free. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

KIDS

Art Outreach for Children with Disabilities Ages 8-10 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an artistic environment in a group setting. Maximum five students per class. Call to reserve. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADart.org.

Children's Fairyland Weekend Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the animal of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m. Sundays, 11 a.m., $6. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

Color My World A creativity Alameda, for kids grades 2-12. Please preregister. Ongoing, start anytime. Fridays, 4:15-6 p.m., $15/session or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

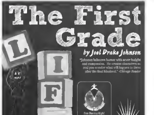
Cuentos en Español Classics and new favorites, read in Spanish, with vocabulary-building games and crafts from Spanish-speaking cultures around the world, and refreshments. First Wednesday of every month, 10 a.m. First Saturday of every month, 11 a.m., Around & Nuble, 5804 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-547-0832.

Early Literacy Night Stories, crafts, and tips for young readers. First Monday of every month, 7:30-8:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5729. OaklandLibrary.org.

El Cerrito Recreation Department Go to El-Cerrito.org/recreation for information on the city's parks, classes, swim center, youth services, senior Alameda, Project READ, and more. Daily.

FantAsiaMobile The Girls Inc. program is for girls who want to start community service hours they need to graduate from high school. Participants are trained in leadership and facilitation skills, and then put these skills into action by working with the younger girls at the Meyers Center. Teens develop their own action plans and Alameda, often in sign language, singing French songs, name poems, and trust games. Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Girls Inc., Meyers Center Alameda. 510-521-1743. GirlsIncIslandCity.org.

Kids' Book Group A new reading group for children who love books. Last Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-noon. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965.



The First Grade

by Joel Drake Johnson

"Johnson balances humor with acute insight and compassion. He creates characters so real you wonder what will happen to them after the final blackout." -*Chicago Reader*

Free Monday Night readings of new plays in February. More information and full schedule at www.auroratheatre.org

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at the Fox

Fox Theater's

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5th

Join us for an evening of celebration with music, art, and drink specials.

Free tours of the Fox Theater from 5 - 7pm

DJ Sake One

SAKE 1

Live Jazz

Happy hour from 5 - 7pm
Drink specials **ALL NIGHT!**

Nathanael Bennett's photographs of the Fox Theater will be exhibited and **available for purchase.**

The Den at the Fox Theater I 1807 Telegraph
(on the corner of 19th and Telegraph)
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$5 FRIDAY JAN 29 @ BAM/PFA

WET GATE

ANNE MCGUIRE & WOBBLY

WITH GUEST PROJECTIONISTS STEVEN OYE, PETER CONHEIM, OWEN O'TOOLE ★ 7:30 PM
PROGRAMMED BY PFA CURATORS STEVE SEID AND KATHY GERITZ

SIT ON IT! BAMSCAPE OPENS

ARTIST TALK WITH THOM FAULDERS ★ 7 PM
DOORS 5 PM, DJ JON LEIDECKER/NO-HOST BAR

NEW EXHIBITIONS BAMSCAPE ★ AHMET ÖĞÜT/MATRIX 231
CLOSING SOON! ARI MARCOPOULOS ★ FERNARDO BOTERO ★ THERESA HAK KYUNG CHA GALLERIES OPEN UNTIL 9 PM

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM @ PFA THEATER

$9.50, additional feature $4; free admission to L@TE with same-Friday PFA ticket

THE MIRACLE WOMAN

Restored vault print! Frank Capra (U.S., 1931, 91 mins), 7 PM

FORBIDDEN

Restored vault print! Frank Capra (U.S., 1932, 87 mins), with Barbara Stanwyck, 8:50 PM

GET MORE: bampfa.berkeley.edu/late
BAM/PFA: 2626 Bancroft Way PFA Theater: 2575 Bancroft Way

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L@TE
FRIDAY NIGHTS @
BAM/PFA

E&A

Email: [illegible]

Warriors: Golf Oakland, for Girls Certified instructor Dana Connolly Brees these classes just for girls ages 10-18 combining elements of tae bo, yoga, karate, and kung fu into a noncompetitive, nonaggressive workout. Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m., $18 drop-in and $120 for unlimited [illegible]. 510-847-2499. AlbanyKarateforKids.com. Albany Karate for Kids, 1249 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-524-0099.

Lakeview Chess Club Presented by Paul Rueza. Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Let It Snow Day With snowballs, an igloo, and wind tunnel, snow-making in the art studio, and a polar bear. Sat., Jan. 30, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., $4.50. Habitot Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley.

National Puppet Theater Sing-Along With Micah and Mama of the National Puppet Theater present. Tuesdays, 8:15 p.m., $4.95 for kids, $2 for each additional [illegible], free for adults and infants. Sallie Dey's Cafe, 4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-501-7288. [illegible]

Rasa Dance for Kids Beginning theater to Indian classical dance. Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Jyoti Kala Mandir College of Indian Classical Arts, 1004 Delaware St., Berkeley. 510-273-2447. [illegible]

Richmond Recreation and Parks Department Visit CI.Richmond.ca.us/recreation for a complete set of sports teams, swimming activities, seniors and kids activities, and much more. [illegible]

Teen Advisors Teens are invited to join this group that reviews books, plans programs, and generally advises Teen Services. Wheelchair accessible. Please do not wear scents to public meetings. To request a sign-language interpreter, real-time captioning, materials in large print or braille, or other accommodations for these meetings, call 510-981-6100 or TTY 510-548-1240 at least five working days prior. First Tuesday of every month, 4:30-6 p.m. 510-981-6128. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Teen Game Day Video gaming for teens only, with Guitar Hero, Wii, and Xbox 360 on the big screen. Sat., Jan. 30, 2 p.m., free. Hayward Public Library, Weekes Branch, 27300 Patrick Ave., Hayward. 510-782-2155. Library.Hayward-ca.gov.

Teen Time Interpreter Music, photos, board games, and movies. Thursdays, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 3565 Foothill Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Wild Jungle Books Children's program features stories, music, and magic fresh Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Theater Theater On Saturdays, hear a story and meet an animal. On Sundays, [illegible] more animals and learn [illegible]. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m. Berkeley, 1:45 p.m., free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Inward Bound Sports Schedule Birth to 12 and all under 18s welcome. Those under 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Daily, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Booth Memorial Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 925-373-5700.

PICKS

SF Sketchfest

Most of the comedians at this year's **SF Sketchfest** are known for up-to-date topical humor, be they pop-culture buffs, vigorous newspaper readers, or people who compulsively check Yahoo! News. Yet nothing could have been more on point than the festival programmers' decision to honor talk-show host Conan O'Brien, who just ended his run on the *Tonight Show*. A bevy of nationally known comics will bring the funny to San Francisco venues including **the Punchline** and **the Purple Onion**, as well as such unprobable places as **Yoshi's Jazz Club**. This week's highlights include *Ask a Ninja* live at **Cobb's Comedy Club** (915 Columbus Ave., Thursday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., $15); [illegible] Present the Justus League at **Eureka Theatre** (215 Jackson St., Thursday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., $15); and *John Hodgman* in conversation with Dave Eggers at Cobb's (Saturday, Jan. 30, 2 p.m., $25.50). SFSketchfest.com — *Rachel Swan*

John Hodgman

Still Bill

Few soul singers are as indelible — or as oft-imitated — as Bill Withers, maker of such hits as "Just the Two of Us," "Lean on Me," and "Ain't No Sunshine." Withers is the subject of a new documentary by Damani Baker and Alex Vlack that's named for the singer's second studio album, ***Still Bill***. More than just a biopic, *Still Bill* traces the blues lineage from which Withers arose and situates the singer in a particular historical context. To do so, the filmmakers weave together archival concert footage with commentary from Tavis Smiley, Cornel West, Angélique Kidjo, and Jim James, all of whom pontificate on Withers' contributions to 1970s pop culture. *Still Bill* also shows Withers offstage, interacting with family members or struggling with his career. It screens Friday, Jan. 29, as part of **East Side Cultural Center's** (2277 International Blvd., Oakland) Final Friday series, "**Films of Resistance and Solidarity**." Local singer Marvin Luther will supplement the evening with live performances of Bill Withers classics. 7-9 p.m., free. EastSideArtsAlliance.com — *R.S.*

Recycled Clothing Swap

These are lean times, and everyone is looking for ways to emit less carbon and spend less money. Hence the popularity of swaps, flea markets, secondhand goods, free piles, dumpster dives, gift economies, and recycled apparel. Followers of the secondhand trend should check out Saturday's **Swap 'til You Drop** event at **Rhythmix Cultural Works** (2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda). Participants each bring a bag of clothes to share, then scour the pickins'. Leftovers will go to Woodstock Child Development Center and Midway Shelter of Alameda. Saturday, Jan. 30, 1-5 p.m., free. Rhythmix.org — *R.S.*

Tennis Tournament

The Cal [illegible] Bears wrap up January with the **Intercollegiate Tennis Association kickoff weekend** at UC Berkeley's **Hellman Tennis Complex** (115 Haas Pavilion). The women of Cal spent the entire fall season on the road, and then rewarded with a final stop in Hawaii, where the Bears swept the Islanders 7-0. Now it's nothing but home cooking as Cal hosts the University of Utah, University of Colorado, and Sacramento State in a round-robin series of matches. The Bears rank third overall in the nation and figure to bring the home crowd a taste of what they've been serving to others. The action starts Friday, Jan. 29, and continues all day Saturday, Jan. 30. 11 a.m. both days, free. CalBears.com — *Kirby Kleinman*

LGBT

Dress-Up Wednesdays Inward Bound [illegible] transgender girls, transgender [illegible] and first timers are welcome. Enjoy brunch and a large selection of clothing for the woman in you, make up, make friends, take photos, and get [illegible] tips. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., $15-20 donation. Livermore, [illegible]. Lave It, 45879 Warm Springs Blvd., #7, Fremont. 510-651-4738. [illegible]

East Bay [illegible] Join the [illegible] group for noncompetitive runs and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Web site for weekly locations. Saturdays, 9:00 a.m., free. EastBayFrontRunners.org. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-533-0340.

Express 20s Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their twenties. Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., $5-$10 suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

LGBTQ Inward Bound Drop-in group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/music. Wednesdays: youth leadership. Thursdays: hot topics/youth Drop-in. Fridays: queer movies/video games. Mondays, 4-6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m.; Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.; Fridays, 4-6 p.m., free. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Ohmm Bones Club Trivia game for cash and prizes. Tuesdays, 9 p.m., and [illegible]. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790. [illegible]

Conversation Salon Everyone is [illegible] to participate on a [illegible] range of topics, including [illegible], education, death, laughter, and whatever is germane to [illegible]. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

Drinking Liberally Political discussion group. Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m.; First Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

East Bay Single Mingle Wine, other games, and board games. Call 415-[illegible] or [illegible] for more info. Fri., Jan. 29, 7-9 p.m. [illegible]

3rd St., San Francisco.

Fireside Theatrical Tilden Park Listen to a few [illegible] stories and [illegible] the San [illegible]. Jan. 31, 3-4 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, 3-4 p.m. (888) 544-2233. ebparks.org.

Friends of the Inward Spirituals First Homecoming Social gathering with music and games. Sat., Jan. 30, [illegible] p.m., free. West Oakland Senior Center, 1724 Adeline St., Oakland. 510-238-7018. WestOaklandNeighbors.com.

Kensington Library Knitting Club The Castoffs spin yarns on a monthly basis. First Monday of every month, 7 p.m. Kensington Branch Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 510-524-3043.

Nomadic Trivia Night Hosted by Justin & Keith. Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. and [illegible]. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

Laugh Class Medical research and proven that laughter is good for you, so come down for a half hour laugh with friends. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. [illegible] for nonresidents. 925-[illegible]. San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon.

The Living Philosophers Inward A peripatetic discussion group. Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible]. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Singers [illegible]. 7-8:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Community Branch, 2800 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-531-3415. [illegible]

Pub Trivia with points and a cash jackpot. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., free. Pacand Lounge, 2000 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

Friends Encore Shattuck Date A [illegible] discussion group. Every [illegible] Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. [illegible] Philosophers.org. Bay La Scala, 1955 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-938-1179.

Weekly Sing-Alongs Led by Bob Albert. Free, drop-in, all ages, no experience necessary. Wednesdays, 4:30-5 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Aikido Friends For info, visit [illegible]. Mondays, 6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, $40/mo for 2 sessions per week; $28/mo for one class per week. Live Oak Center, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6660.

You Dam Run 10K and 30K run or walk. [illegible] day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the San Pablo Reservoir [illegible]. For info, visit WildParkEvents.com. Sat., Jan. 30, 8 a.m., $90. San Pablo Dam Rd., at [illegible], El Sobrante.

East Bay Ultimate Bay Area Frisbee [illegible] recreational games of [illegible] at Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex and San Pablo Fields (1900 Mabel St., Berkeley). For info, and EastBayUltimate.org. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 2-11 p.m. Continues through Feb. 25, $50. Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex, 400 Gilman St., Berkeley.

How to Select Alpine Skis Right for You With REI ski specialist Jason A. O'Connell. Sat., Jan. 30, 2-3 p.m., free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

Ladies Night Special tee times reserved for women. Info: 510-848-7373 ex. 228. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. $15/9 holes, $25 for a cart. $5 of each [illegible] will benefit the American Heart Association. Tilden Park Golf Course, Tilden Park and Shasta Rd., Berkeley. 510-848-7373. TildenParkGolf.com.

Learn-to-Ski Drop-In Open Special Head over to RLC. Cars, 4408 East Ave., Livermore, for a lunchtime special. $50 for a 20-visit pass, or $2.50 per visit. Info: 925-373-5731. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pac Nomads Bike Group Weekly Bike Ride Leisurely 10-25-mile ride up Tunnel Road and through the Oakland Hills. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

Run-A-Bowl Mondays, 10 p.m., $1.50 per game. Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-8818. AlbanyBowl.biz.

Friends Seize Ranger and Qi Gong Learn as Students learn the Reservoir of Friends [illegible] that involve the loosen eyes, body and feet. Through Feb. 3, [illegible]. Lao Han Temple, 2110 Berkeley Way, Berkeley.

Snow-camping 101 Lecture on gear, tents, snow shelters, and sleeping bags with specialist Andy Bosnak. Wed., Feb. 3, 7-8:30 p.m., free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

More Listings Online
Find hundreds of up-to-date Arts listings
at EastBayExpress.com
or m.EastBayExpress.com

SPORTS SPECTATOR

Golden State Warriors Vs. New Orleans NBA basketball. Wed., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m., $10-$250. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Golden State Warriors Vs. Thunder NBA basketball. Fri., Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., $10-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Monster Energy Supercross Top supercross riders James Stewart, Chad Reed, Ryan Dungey, and more battle it out for the 2010 AMA Supercross crown. Sat., Jan. 30, 12:30 p.m., $10-$70. supercrossonline.com. AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza, San Francisco.

UC Berkeley Women's Basketball: Vs. Arizona At Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Thu., Jan. 28, 7 p.m., $5-$12. 800-GO-BEARS. CalBears.collegesports.com. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-0580.

UC Berkeley Women's Basketball: Vs. Arizona State At Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley campus. Sat., Jan. 30, 2:30 p.m., $5-$12. 800-GO-BEARS. CalBears.collegesports.com. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-0580.

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first congregational [illegible]
$15-$20 sliding scale
$8 youth 17 & under
MORE INFO: www.speakoutnow.org or 510 601 0182

57th Street Gallery PRESENTS
Counter Culture:
A Celebration of Protest History through Art, Word and Song, Feb 1-27
Opening Reception,
Saturday, February 6, 2010 2pm-7pm
Featuring Spoken Word by one of Sacramento's [illegible] dynamic poets: Lawrence (MSAA) Holland, Jr.
Artist talk immediately following, by several exhibiting artists.
Contact@57thStreetGallery.com
Saturday Evening Jazz
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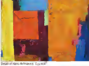

Detail of Hans Hofmann's *Equinox*

Old Man River

Hans Hofmann resurgent at Berkeley Art Museum

The abstract expressionist wild men of yore have become our old masters. SFMOMA has its Clyfford Stills, and BAM has its **Hans Hofmanns**: 47 works the artist donated in the mid-1960s in gratitude for the Bay Area's early recognition of his art. He taught at UC Berkeley during the summers of 1931 and 1932 at the invitation of two former students, Worth Ryder and Glenn Wessels, and his first American public exhibition took place at San Francisco's Legion of Honor in 1932, three years before he fled Hitler's Germany.

Despite such critical esteem, Hofmann was known primarily as an influential teacher and conduit of "European master" modernism until late in life (he stopped teaching to focus on painting only at age 78!). His friends and colleagues from pre-1915 Paris included Kandinsky, the Delaunays, Picasso, Braque, Léger, Brancusi, Miro, and Matisse. His students (in Munich, New York, and Provincetown, Massachusetts) included Robert De Niro Sr., Burgoyne Diller, Marisol Escobar, Helen Frankenthaler, Clement Greenberg, Red Grooms, John Haley, Alfred Jensen, Allan Kaprow, Karl Kasten, Lee Krasner, Erle Loran, Joan Mitchell, Louise Nevelson, Wolfgang Paalen, Larry Rivers, Frank Stella, and Irvin Kershner (yes, the director of *The Empire Strikes Back*). Hofmann's lyrical abstraction, based on the imaginative observation of nature ("bursting with life ... swaying with sublime divinity") inflected by "cray-oh-teef" painterly intuition, was influential in the Bay Area; Cal's art department, led by Messrs. Haley, Kasten, Loran, and Wessels, was lauded by critic Harold Rosenberg in 1964 as "one of the strongest in the country." (San Francisco social-activist painters under Diego Rivera's spell criticized the "Berkeley School" as academic. Formalists in Berkeley?)

Despite his fame as a teacher (reverential students watched how he tied his shoes), Hofmann felt that art was fundamentally a matter of temperament, and thus unteachable. He wanted, while painting, despite himself, not to know what he was doing. "Painters must speak through paint, not words." The current show of nine paintings from 1937 to 1960, entitled ***Nature into Action*** (after a Rosenberg essay), reflects the variety of motifs and styles ("I am many people") — airy agglomerations of feathery strokes jostling with densely packed magma flows — that led to his signature late style, depicting vibrantly colored rectangles hovering parallel to the picture plane at various pushed and pulled optical depths, above and in front of abstracted landscapes — nature and culture in dynamic equipoise. *Nature into Action* runs February 3 through June 30 @ **Berkeley Art Museum** (2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). 510-642-0365 or BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu

— *DeWitt Cheng*

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/p/hofmann

ART GALLERIES

Addison Street Windows Gallery, Re:formed: Found Object Art Through Feb. 28. 2018 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-981-7546.

Albatross Pub, Paintings by Judy Robert Through Jan. 31. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com.

Berkeley Art Museum, The Abe Robert Robert Works by Colombian painter Bernardo Robert. Through Feb. 7. 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Frank Bette Center for the Arts, Call for Artists: The 48-Hour Photography Challenge Forty-eight photographers will be selected to exhibit their work. Through Feb. 1. $35. 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Blankspace, Sin Sure: Artists' Slogans for Sale Featuring work by Andrea Becker, Sita Bhaumik, [illegible] Eddon, Alex Gray, Helena Keeffe, Crystal Robert, Thomasin Barnes, [illegible] Reichelderfer, Robert Robertson, Scott Rosenberg, [illegible], Anna Whaphead, and Stephen Yamaoka. Through March 14. 6608 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. 510-547-6808. BlankspaceGallery.com.

Cal State East Bay Arts and Education Building, Annual Art Faculty Exhibition Featuring work by [illegible], Lanier Calhoun, Mario Hoffman, Michael Henninger, Bryan Higgins, [illegible], Scott Hopkins, Polly Kavanaugh, Kirk LeClaire, Lisa Levine, Mark Levy, Diana Mahakala, Paolo Pererra, James Robert, Dickson Schneider, Lisa Solomon, Hal Standley, Suzy Weir, and Sharon Wickham. Through Feb. 25. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3058.

Crown Point Press, The Figure: A Group Exhibition Featuring work by Chris Ofili, [illegible], Amy S. Jenkins, Edgar Bryan, [illegible], Francesco Clemente, [illegible], Eric Fischl, Robert Kushner, [illegible], Judith Rothstein, Markus Baehr, David Salle, Robert Smith, and William T. Wiley. Through Feb. 27. 20 Hawthorne St., San Francisco. 415-974-6273. CrownPoint.com.

Expressions Gallery, Taking Back KPFA: Images from 1999 Art photos and historic materials from the famous KPFA protest. Through Feb. 5. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

[illegible] Community Art Gallery, Reflections Exhibit show of "The Art of Living Black," featuring work by Mama Sylvia Thomas and Yusuf Waajid. Through March 18. 5361 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. WCBS.org.

Joyce Gordon Gallery, Amor Fati Group exhibit featuring work by Pendra Ronline, [illegible] Hidalgo, Manina Boreda, Callo Blair, [illegible], Mel Vela Cruz, [illegible], Michele Moenzig & Juan Carlos Quinonez, Fortunato Rodriguez, and Carlos Villa. Through Feb. 8. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Julia's Enchanted Garden, Homage & Memory Paintings by Dawn McCloud. Through March 2. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-[illegible]. JuliasFlor.com.

R Gallery, The Book Club Art Show featuring work in a variety of media, ranging from comic books to political posters. Artists include Mark Ashworth, Gary Burgess, Keith Ferris, [illegible] Greenberg, Robert Hernandez, Peter Kelly, Red King, Evan Lange, Michael Mew, Robert Murray, [illegible] Patterson, Vivian Riggio, King Owusu, Peter Van Kleef, Marion Wadson, Jim Whitaker, Agnes Yee, and Yano. Through Feb. 1. 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. RhythmArt.org.

Kala Art Institute, Great Great Britain and The Three Majesties Multimedia installation by Rasheed Mayer, Harrison and Rewind Lambert. Through Feb. 20. **Go West: New York from Kala** New work by Alan Benedict, Freddy Chandra, Cara Conover, Jeffrey Hantman, Ellen Hook, Sharon Nieberding, Steven Robertson, Sadie Mason, Tanya Peterson, Toni Sagina, Susie Tashimoto and Karen Tsubakiyama. Through Feb. 18. **Kala TGIT (Thank God It's Thursday)** Monthly event with live jazz, wine sampling from local vintners, toffee, demonstrations, and affordable art. Starting Jan. 28.

PICKS

Detail of an untitled sculpture by Kalina Rajan.

Of Sinew and Soil

Overt grappling with materials went out of style with the capering of abstract expressionism and its bobbing to the surface of more industrial, coolly cerebral aesthetics. Going to nature for inspiration (remember Georgia O'Keefe and Henry Moore?) likewise all but vanished with pop and its various successors (except for eco art in the 1980s). Sister and brother **Shivani and Kalina Rajan**, painter and sculptor respectively, obviously stick with the old-time religion. In Shivani's paintings, California's undulating hills resemble our bodies, forces within and without seen as equivalent. In Kalina's sculptures, tree branches similarly suggest torsos. While there's a bit too much reverence toward organic form here (and the idea that humanity is part of "Earth's body," in Shivani's words), isn't that old enough to be new again? ***Of Sinew and Soil*** runs through Jan. 29 at **Studio Quercus** (385 26th St., Oakland; by appt.) 510-452-4672 or StudioQuercus.com. — *DeWitt Cheng*

Marsha Balian

The famous fin-de-siècle aesthete Whistler once said "Art happens — no hovel is safe from it." Although he was mocking art discourse in 1885, his aphorism rings true today and now you can venture beyond the Caldecott Tunnel, Orinda, and still get your art fix in Orinda, far from any hectic art-hearing or not. Commercial photographer **Scott McCune** is showing fine art in his front room. Up the stairs see **Marsha Balian**'s small, mixed-media paintings and sculptures. Her surreal painted versions of the notoriously silly Freudian brands of the Fifties and Sixties ("I Dreamed I Was an Epicurean In My Maidenform Bra") are reminiscent of Joan Brown; her figurative assemblages ("Neo-neologism," "Objects Smaller Than They Appear," the Palm Saint of Bloodlight"), with their gentle goofy humor, resemble Aggie ceramics from the School of Davis. ***Marsha Balian*** runs through January 29 at **McCune Gallery 83** (83 Orinda Way, Orinda). 925-253-1718. — *D.C.*

Lil Tuffy

What do the *Radio Reelers, Chrome Girls, Mistreaters, Dirtbombs, Dwarves, Dictators, Raconteurs, [illegible] Furies* and *Arctic Monkeys* have in common? How about *Wall Mother, Holy Ghost Revival, Floostradamus, Vampire Weekend, the Dead Weather, the Mall, Mute Math, Supergrass, TV on the Radio, Pere Ubu* and *Human League*? Anyone who enjoyed **Lil Tuffy**'s show of silk-screened rock posters last year will want to check out the 100 or so pieces in this **Second Annual Retrospective** (which includes many new works from the prolific and versatile Mr. Tuffy — posters, handbills, fliers, and even unique overprinted proofs that were unusable commercially but make fine abstractions). Fifties- and Sixties-style commercial illustration and photography meet pop, psychedelic, punk, and Dada in this compendium of graphic design that manifests a wide variety of hand-appropriate attitudes. *Lil Tuffy* runs through **January 30** at **Kukl Frames+Art** (412 22nd St., Oakland). 510-625-0123 or kuklFrames.com — *D.C.*

Last Thursday of every month, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Started through June 1. $5. 1000 Hanu Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977.

Kukl Frames + Art: Lil Tuffy Second Annual Retrospective Exhibit features silkscreened rock posters. Through Jan. 30. Free. 412 22nd St., Oakland. 510-625-0123. KuklFrames.com.

Lindsay Brown Gallery: Lynn Shephard Student Art Show San Ramon Community Center. Instructor Lynn Shephard presents a showcase of student work in watercolor and acrylic. Through Jan. 28. 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. 925-973-3200.

McCue Gallery 83: Marsha Balian Presenting mixed-media paintings and sculptures. Through Jan. 29. Free. 83 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-253-1718.

Mercury 20 Gallery: Elemental Group show featuring work by twenty artists in the collective. Through Jan. 30. Free. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-464-7785. Mercury20gallery.com.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices: Paintings from Near and Far Paintings by Seamus Berkeley. Through Apr. 15. Free. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-464-7773.

NIAD Art Center: Animals Everywhere Group exhibition features paintings inspired by the animal kingdom. Through March 18. Free. 558 32nd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Photolab Gallery: Ordinary Emotions and Selected Portraits Sheila Newbery presents black-and-white and color photographs. Through Feb. 27. Free. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-644-5400. Photolaboratory.com/gallery.htm.

Rockridge Cafe: East Bay Women Artists Holiday Art Show Featuring women artists working in acrylics, pastels, watercolors and photography. Through Feb. 3. Free. 5492 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-1567.

Sacred Rose Tattoo/SRT Gallery: Sacred Rose Tattoo Group Show Closing reception Sat., Jan. 30, 6-9 p.m. Through Jan. 30. **Karen Rose Solo Show** Opening reception Sat., Feb. 5. Feb. 5-March 28. 1728 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-665-1883. SacredRoseTattoo.com.

Somar Bar & Lounge: The Art of Wing Violence, Muay Thai and Boxing Sacred paintings Series of paintings by up-and-coming artists depicting fighter Matt Lucas and other Muay Thai boxing scenes. Through Feb. 14. 1727 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. SomarBar.com.

Thelma Harris Art Gallery: Perception/Reality Through Jan. 30. 5940 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-4251.

Townsend Center: Craig Nagasawa Presenting painting, photography and collage. Through May 7. 220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-9670. TownsendCenter.Berkeley.edu.

We Artspace: Memories of Oakland Exhibit based on Weston Georis Gillon's art show. Featuring work by Vanessa Rosen, Conor Ottenweller, Sarah Nabu, Wiley Fink, Ian Huebert, PJ Calhan, Judith Alexander, Maaman Rossin, Eric Phipott, Priya Kay, Fatimah Guerrero, Nikki Oakland, Lee Robeson, Mel Bailey-Nesbitt, Michael Stallion, Aubrey Pierce, Rosie Steely. Curated by Nick Oakland, Weston Georis Gillon, Roberto Miguel, Amanda Sephi, Zach Hewlett, Luke, and Sacred Mary, Aaron Hender, Jan Laterner, Anne Alonso and Bogustaw Mesinec. Through Jan. 31. Free. 768 40th St., Oakland. WeArtSpace.com.

William High Memorial Gallery: Lonely Scared 2009 Black and white photography exhibit featuring work by seven Oakland, under the direction of [illegible]. Through Jan. 30. 1900 Fulton St., Room 4-100, Oakland. 510-464-3384.

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MUSEUMS

Asian Art Museum: In a New Light These works from the museum's holdings represent an introduction to the major cultures of Asia. Daily. 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

Bead Museum: 3 Days with Alan Earl

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berg The museum's ongoing exhibit is a collection of never-before-seen photographs of poets Allen Ginsberg and Lawrence Ferlinghetti and playwright Michael McClure by photographer Harold Adler. Daily. 540 Broadway, San Francisco. 1-800-537-6822. theBeatMuseum.org.

Berkeley Art Museum. Assignment Shanghai: Photographs on the Eve of Revolution Through June 27. 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu

Blackhawk Museum. Alfa Romeo BAT Exhibition Three aerodynamic concept automobiles from Alfa Romeo circa 1953-55 on display. Daily. 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., Danville. 925-736-2280. BlackhawkMuseum.org.

Exploratorium. Traits of Life A museum of exhibits and demonstrations examining the fundamental elements common to all living things. Daily. 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. 415-561-0360. Exploratorium.edu

Habitot Children's Museum. Shel Game The ongoing exhibition of Roger Gastenberg's painting, *Shel Game, The Big 0's vs. The Missing Planet.* Daily. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. From the Maker's Hand From the permanent collection, a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus Mesoamerica, Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. **Native Californian Lenses** This "visible storage" exhibition showcases some 500 objects from the museum's Museum of Native Californian cultures. Daily. Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

Museum of Mosaic Art. California Habitat Artists: Celebrating Diversity through Mosaics An ongoing group show. Daily. **Wonder Art: Pet Portraits** A celebration of pets in mosaic. Daily. 3001 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-437-6799. MuseumofMosaicArt.com.

Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles. Bobbin Lace: The Taming of Millennium of Habitat Exhibit on the 500-year-old art of twisting and crossing lace. Through Feb. 1. 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-843-7290. LacisMuseum.org.

Lawrence Hall of Science. Science on a Sphere (SOS) New permanent exhibit. Habitat: an animated globe. Watch hurricanes form, tsunamis sweep across the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. 98 ... Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

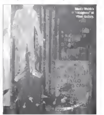
Legion of Honor. Cartier and America Jewelry exhibition featuring work by Cartier, who was known as "king of Jewelers," during the Belle Époque. Through April 18. 34th Ave. and Clement St., San Francisco. 415-750-3600. LegionofHonor.org.

Judah L. Magnes Museum. Projections Museum A works from the museum's extensive collections of archival, documentary, and experimental films. Daily. **Memory Lab** Interactive installation allows visitors to create digital family albums and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Matisse and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture Collection Pieces from the museum's holdings including work by Kahlo, Mondrian, Klee, Rauschenberg, Rivera, Diebenkorn, et al. Daily. **Museum Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collection. Daily. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection** From the museum's vast holdings, photos by Adams, Cunningham, Evans, Lange, Steiglitz, et al. Daily. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

USS Hornet Museum. TBM Avenger WWII torpedo bomber restored by volunteers. Daily. **Nisei Soldiers' Experience** Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the Nisei (second-generation) Japanese American troops who fought in the US in WWII. Daily. Pier 3, Alameda. 510-521-8448 or 213. USS-Hornet.org.

Zeum. Quality Quest A hands-on theater for kids that provides safe access to arts, media, and technology. Daily. 221 4th St., San Francisco. 415-777-2800. Zeum.org. ●



Martin Webb's "Vangoes" at Pinel Gallery.

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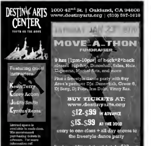

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THEATER & DANCE

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

2012: Time of No Time Staged reading of a new production by the Mystic Performance Experiment. Wed., Jan. 27, 7 p.m., $5-$10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Antigone Actors Ensemble of Berkeley presents Jean Anouilh's 1942 version of Sophocles' tragedy, over Nazi-occupied France. [illegible] Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Thu., Feb. 18, 8 p.m. Continues through Feb. 20. $12-$15. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5580.

The Bright River: A Mass Transit Tour of the Afterlife Play by Tim Barsky with music by beatboxer Carlos Aguirre (a.k.a. Infinite), jazz drummer Kevin Carnes, and cellist Alex Kelly. Directed by Jessica Heidt. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Feb. 28. $17-$35. Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St., San Francisco, 415-641-7657, Brava.org.

[illegible] Musical drama about love and strife on Northern Island. Directed by Richard Elliott, with musical direction by Timothy Harvey. Through Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, 2 p.m., Sundays, 3 p.m., Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Feb. 28. Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward St., Martinez, 925-798-1300.

Coming Home West coast premiere of the drama written by Athol Fugard and directed by Gordon Edelstein. Through Feb. 28, $13.50-$71. Berkeley Repertory Theatre Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949.

The First Grade By Joel Drake Johnson, directed by Tom Ross. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 7 p.m., Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Feb. 14. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

A Number Sci-fi play by Caryl Churchill, directed by Michael Butler. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8:15 p.m., Sundays, 2:15 p.m. Continues through Feb. 7. $22.50-$45. Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-943-7469, CCREP.org.

Rip Van Winkle Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department presents a stage adaptation of the old folk tale. Thu., Jan. 28, 7 p.m., Fri., Jan. 29, 4 p.m. $8. LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College, Moraga, 925-631-4381.

More Listings Online

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DANCE-PERFORMANCE

[illegible] Metal Garden in Concert [illegible] **Dance and Music Ensemble**. Sat., Jan. 30, 8 p.m. $10-$20. [illegible] Center, 721 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2886, [illegible].

Trisha [illegible] Featuring a Mills Repertory Dance Company performance of Trisha Brown's [illegible] Trisha Brown and John Killacky 5:30 p.m. in the Danforth Lecture Hall. Wed., Jan. 27, 6-8 p.m., free. Mills College Art Museum, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-2164.

LIVE VARIETY

Remembering Pat Parker Tribute to the lesbian feminist poet, featuring Anastacia Dunham-Parker, Genny Lim, Phavia Kujichagulia, Mamacoatl [illegible], Ariz Saura-Lewis, Kaylah Marin, Avotcja & Mistique, Judy Grahn, and Anastasia [illegible]. Sun., Jan. 31, 7-9:30 p.m. $15-$20. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

[illegible] Screening of the documentary about [illegible]. Plus an appearance by [illegible] who will perform the [illegible]. Fri., Jan. 29, 7-8 p.m., free. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629.

Tilted Frame: [illegible] Jam Combined Artists' Research and Development department presents improvised music with new stage technologies. Some Thursday actors will include "Sounds Like a Song" jams, in which players create improvised music with local composer [illegible] on piano. Thursdays, 8-9:30 p.m. Continues through Jan. 28. $10. [illegible] Theater Stage 250, San Francisco, 415-646-0776.

COMEDY

Brad Williams [illegible] Thu., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m., Fri., Jan. 29, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., Sat., Jan. 30, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Sun., Jan. 31, 7 p.m. $10-$30. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

[illegible] Comedy Wed., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m., $10-$20. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

Comedy Club Showcase With rotating acts. Fridays, 9 p.m., $12-$25. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., #705, San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

Tilted Frame: Comedy Improv Performances simultaneously broadcast in San Francisco and Los Angeles, featuring actors in both cities. Fridays, 8-9:30 p.m. Continues through Jan. 29. $20. [illegible] Theater Stage 250, San Francisco, 415-646-0776.

PICKS

Roslyn Ruff and Lou Ferguson in Coming Home.

KevinBerne.com

Coming Home

Like Strindberg or Ibsen, contemporary playwright Athol Fugard has a knack for pressure-cooker dramas in which everything leads up to the moment of "too late." More importantly, his plays always shoulder the weight of history — specifically that of his South African homeland. Fugard's latest, *Coming Home*, tells the story of Veronica (Roslyn Ruff), a small-town woman who sets out for the big city (Cape Town), but fails to improve her lot. Veronica returns to her village with a young son, a pernicious secret, and a sack of dead dreams, but finds solace in an old friend, Alfred (Thomas Silcott). Under the direction of Gordon Edelstein, this production wrings all the juice out of Fugard's writing. Ruff and Silcott stretch out the dialogue and use their bodies to reveal big things with small gestures. Ruff is particularly forceful. She starts off a bumptious man-eater and over the course of two hours (or five years, in the timeline of the play) she crumples. Eugene Lee's shantytown set — complete with its windmill and vegetable patch — creates a space of lost innocence for Veronica. Indeed, the word "home" has many implications. Through Feb. 28 at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $13.50-$71. BerkeleyRep.org — *Rachel Swan*

The Bright River

He has spent past lives as a fire juggler, theologian, Chassidic folklorist, storyteller, and flutist. Tim Barsky managed to lump all his skills into a form he calls "urban circus arts." It's an apt lens for his new show *The Bright River: A Mass Transit Tour of the Afterlife*, which transforms an old allegory in Dante into a hip, lively avant screed. An [illegible] sense, *Bright River* privileges sound over form. Its current iteration features beatboxer Carlos Aguirre (aka Infinite), jazz drummer Kevin Carnes, and cellist Alex Kelly, with Barsky playing a slew of woodwinds (he's a renowned practitioner of "flute beatboxing") and delivering his travelogue in spoken word cadence. The musicians not only create atmosphere, but also animate the story: At one point, Aguirre acts out an entire "conference of birds" using his body as an instrument. "Transit" is not so much a theme as an aural effect, conveyed through the use of scrap metal percussion and electronics. It coheres with a hostile industrial landscape designed by Melpomene Katakalos, and with Barsky's idea of using busses as a metaphor for purgatory. For those who caught the group's December performance at Climate Theater, this new stage production is more dynamic and dramatic — aural instead of mono. Directed by Jessica Heidt. Through February 28 at **Brava Theater Center** (2781 24th St., San Francisco). $17-$35. Brava.org — *R.S.*

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THEATER

JUST A NUMBER

New CenterREP production explores human cloning.

By Rachel Swan

A Number. KevinBerne.com

The apparent impetus for Caryl Churchill's *A Number* was to imagine a situation that could happen in the "near-future": A human is cloned at age four by his mad-scientist father, then put up for adoption. By the time he reaches adulthood, Bernard 1 (played by Gabriel Marin in a new CenterREP production) knows nothing of his parentage. Hardened by a rough childhood, he's sullen and slouchy, prone to lash out spontaneously and then crumple. At age 35, Black reunites with his father Salter (James Carpenter), and learns that he has not just one, but twenty illegitimate brothers, all duplicates of one another. (Marin plays Bernards 1 and 2, in addition to a third brother, Michael Black.) Dad blames it on the lab. Bernard 1 is incensed. Drama ensues. The creepy part is how eerily prescient — even realistic — the situation *seems*. It needn't be the near future. It could have already happened.

We cloned Dolly the Sheep in 1996, which means a human could have conceivably followed shortly thereafter. And hey, why not? We've already seen a generation of sperm-bank children enter adulthood, along with the progeny of egg donors. In vitro fertilization is no big deal anymore, and it seems unremarkable for a kid to grow up with no connection to his "biological" parents. As Michael Black states, we've got 99 percent of the same genes as an ape, and 30 percent the same as a lettuce. So what exactly is so frightening about twenty guys sharing an identical genetic pedigree?

In fact, Bernard 1 and his brothers aren't the scary boogie men of this play. It's their father who's the real villain. Salter is burdened with giving us most of the exposition, but we know right off the bat he's an unreliable narrator. The mere fact that he kept those twenty clones a secret for so many years — not to mention cloning his child in the first place — reveals a lot about his character. Add to that Salter's multiple explanations for the death of Black's mother and his unsatisfying excuse for having twenty Bernards, rather than one. (In the opening scene he threatens litigation against the lab, and asks Bernard 1 how much to charge in damages for one human life.) It's never quite clear if there was a mother in the first place, or who is the original and who is the copy.

Show Details

A Number runs through February 7 at Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts (1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek). $22.50-$45. CenterRep.org

Churchill posits one possible reading of the play, though to get it requires a little stretch of the imagination. The point is that this is not a straight story, nor a whodunit. Under Michael Butler's skillful direction, we're supposed to become part of this web of deception. Moreover, we're *supposed* to walk away uncomfortable knowing we've been duped. And that only happens in the hands of a capable actor. Carpenter is one. A Berkeley Rep staple, he's so good at dissembling that he can put up a front for other characters, then get caught in a lie, then replace it with another lie, and always leave you guessing as to which story is most plausible. Marin has an even tougher job, given that he has to shoulder three roles — essentially three versions of the same person, each with a distinct personality. (Bernard 1 is aggressive and mercurial; Bernard 2 is abashed; Black is cheery and repressed.) He brings the question of predestination versus free will into stark relief.

At fifty minutes with no intermission, this play is taut and dramatic. The stage in CenterREP's Knight Stage 3 Theatre is set up for theater-in-the-round, meaning the audience encircles the stage. That might explain the actors' constant movements. They trace the periphery like two boxers in a ring, cross-examining each other. Marin alters his mannerisms ever so slightly to play the three brothers. As Bernard 1 he hunches his shoulders and looks ready for combat. As Bernard 2 he shrivels. As Michael Black he dons a camel hair coat, slicks his hair back, and stands up straight. Salter relates differently to all three characters. His interaction with Bernard 1 is one of fear and an eerie form of tenderness — at one point, he strokes his son's ear menacingly. Michael Black, in contrast, frustrates the father to no end. Unlike the two Bernards, he's stolid and tightly contained, seemingly inured to the problem of having no concrete identity. That's all Salter's fault, but he's the one who seems most disturbed by the third son's complacency. "Do you like dogs?" he demands. "Do you have asthma?"

The set of *A Number*, designed by Butler and Scott Denison, is bone-white and futuristic. There's a laptop on one table, three chairs, and two glasses of water. The scenes are short and tight. They often stop mid-sentence, punctuated by an onslaught of heavy industrial noise. The idea, of course, is to set this story several decades into the future — perhaps a morally bankrupt future, in which everything looks white and homogenous, and it really is permissible to create human clones. But *A Number* is not really a play about an ethical quandary. It's more of a philosophical exercise. Supposedly, we come away having learned something about the primacy of human souls over their genetic material. Perhaps we come away with a lot of unanswered questions. Churchill could have easily extended the play to three hours, introduced us to nineteen more Bernards, and led us down all possible rabbit holes. Instead, she leaves us hanging. ●

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Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES & LIT

The Normon Conquest

Losers spur laughter in cartoonist Norman Dog's new book

Norman Dog.

In a collection titled *The 37 Cartoons You Should Read Before You Die*, it's only appropriate that at least one of those cartoons forces readers to contemplate dying. **Raymond Larrett — aka Norman Dog**, whose "Bad Habits" strip ran in the *Express* from 1985 to 2007 — couldn't resist. In his trademark retro-magazine-headline diction, the comic in question is called "Death: What Kind Is Best for You?" and offers two options: first, the slow, lingering kind. "Advantage: lots of sympathy. Downside: expensive, you die," reads the caption. Or consider the sudden, unexpected kind. "Advantages: quick, painless, you'll be in the paper. Disadvantages: messy, you die."

"This is simply a summary of a longstanding argument I would have with my son, who said that when he got old — which was understood to be however many years I happened to be at the moment — he'd like to be struck instantly dead by a meteor to the back of the head," said Larrett, who will introduce the book at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Thursday, January 28. "I would argue for the long fade-out, though for what it's worth, I'm coming around to his point of view."

Rather than follow a single character or set of characters, "Bad Habits" has always reinvented itself continuously, hopping with savage accuracy from bores to boors, from wishful thinkers to wage slaves.

"My only subject matter is whatever I'm thinking about on any given day," Larrett explained. "The real connective thread is a fascination with cliché and stereotyped thinking, the unexamined thoughts and ideas that roll through our brains and out our mouths without us ever knowing what we mean. And I don't point the finger at others. I've found that if I can contrive to overhear myself thinking, the most remarkable nonsense turns up."

A recurring theme in his work is human vulnerability, whether it's conveyed via lottery losses or oddly shaped body parts or a humanoid rabbit — "Bob, the Angry Alcoholic Bunny" — who appears now and then in the book hurling insults, behaving irresponsibly, and throwing up.

"Farts, puke, blood, tears, semen, any and all convulsive, involuntary bodily emissions have always been a rich vein" for cartoonists, Larrett said. "It's not that puke is funny per se. It's the loss of bodily control, and hence loss of dignity." And that's a human condition so universal as to stoke the complex reaction — recognition and denial, mockery and sympathy — that is the key to Larrett's genius.

"Bad Habits" was drawn in black-and-white until three years ago, when Larrett switched to color "because I'm not skillful at using it and wanted to improve. ... So this book is the best of the color years." How did he choose which pieces to include? Whichever among them "caused me to wince least upon rereading," Larrett said, poking fun at every humorist's favorite target: himself. 7 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, go to: ebx.hy.pr/normandog

LECTURES

[illegible] & Respect for Women: Beijing Report back from the international women's conference, featuring food, visual arts, musical performance, films, a slide show, a historical Poetry on [illegible] and [illegible] from the US delegation. Speakers include [illegible]. For more info, visit [illegible]. Sat., Jan. 23, 4-6 p.m. 1809 Webster St. Community Center, 1809 Webster St., Alameda.

Spanish Civil War Documentary Screening of the documentary *Former Activists, Stories from the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade*. Fri., Jan. 29, 7 p.m., $5-$10. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-4824. [illegible]

Take a Hike With John Muir Museum on Main presents a lecture by John Muir re-enactor Frank Helling. Thu., Jan. 28, 2 p.m. Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. 925-846-1922.

station allows people to record personal instruments. Daily. free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.hayward-ca.gov

Dr. [illegible] Discussing *Conversations with [illegible]: Why Are We So Afraid of Alzheimer's Disease?* Wed., Feb. 3, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, Inc. Berkeley, 1789 4th St., Berkeley.

James Lawler Discussing his book *You Are Not a Gadget: A Manifesto*. Wed., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. $12-$15. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

Leslie Larson Discussing *Breaking Out of Bedlam*. Thu., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

May Gardens and Other Paranormal Poets Poetry reading and dance party with May Garson, [illegible], and Larry D'Costanzo. Sun., Jan. 31, 7 p.m. $8-$10. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170.

New Audio Book Downloads A new service offered through the library's improved web site. Features include an online reference librarian, catalogue and database access, search box, improved menus, and links. Daily. Oakland Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Norman Dog Discussing *The 37 Cartoons You Should Read Before You Die*. Thu., Jan. 28, 7 p.m. free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Poetry Flash With Cheryl Klein and Terry Wolverton Sun., Jan. 31, 3 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Sharing Sweet, We Love Class members take turns discussing a book that inspired them. Last Wednesday of every month, 12:30 p.m. $5 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

Theodore Roszak Discussing *The Making of an Elder Culture: Reflections on the Future of America's Most Audacious Generation*. Thu., Jan. 28, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, Inc. Berkeley, 1789 4th St., Berkeley.

Wednesday Morning Story Time with Lesh [illegible] Starting Feb. 3, Wednesdays. Continues through Feb. 24. free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Will [illegible] Discussing *The Incarnation of Carmen Dolly*. Wed., Jan. 27, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210.

Willis Wolverton Discussing *The [illegible]*. Tue., Feb. 2, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

More Listings Online

Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

LITERARY EVENTS

Amy Greene Discussing *Bloodroot*. Fri., Jan. 29, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210.

Black Scientist Exhibit Feb. 1-28. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

California of the Past Digital storytelling

PICKS

Amy Greene

Having grown up in Tennessee's Smoky Mountains, **Amy Greene** wrote her first novel, *Bloodroot*, about four generations of a family living, loving, and surviving in a landscape where, to this day, many residents still grow their own food, draw water from wells, and heat their homes with coal. Meet Greene at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland) on Friday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m., free. GreatGoodPlaceforBooks.com — *Anneli Rufus*

Italian Travel Lecture

Where are the most unspoiled villages? Which art, music sites are least crowded? Who sells the best espresso? At **International House** (2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley) on Saturday, Jan. 30, Santa Rosa Junior College professor Gian Mussatti and UC Berkeley Education Abroad Program alumna Shane Shenzo present a talk titled **"Secrets of Traveling Well in Italy,"** packed with tips and techniques for art-loving people. 11 a.m., free. IHouse.Berkeley.edu — *A.R.*

Terry Wolverton and Cheryl Klein

In **Terry Wolverton**'s new novel *The Labrys Reunion*, an art student is raped and murdered, after which her mother reassesses her own political history and wonders what happened to feminism. Presented by Poetry Flash, Wolverton — whose other books include *Embers*, *Black Slip*, and *Mystery Bruise* — reads at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, Jan. 31 with *Lilac Mines* author **Cheryl Klein**, 3 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com — *A.R.*

Wole Soyinka

Wole Soyinka

In 1986, **Wole Soyinka** became the first African ever to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. Imprisoned for peace activism in his native Nigeria in 1967, he remains an activist to this day. On Tuesday, Feb. 2, this celebrated playwright, novelist, essayist, memoirist, and poet participates in a panel discussion with faculty members in UC Berkeley's **Maude Fife Room** (315 Wheeler Hall). 4 p.m., free. TownsendCenter.Berkeley.edu — *A.R.*

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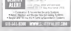
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BODY&SOUL

A Change Is Gonna Come

Can yoga make the change of life less hellish?

Jnana Gowan

Menopause is the elephant in America's living room, **Jnana Gowan** says. "People don't freak out when the word 'puberty' comes up about teenagers — but menopause? It gets too close to the idea that we might talk about bodily fluids," Gowan said. "Also, it is a very emotional time, or can be — and let's face it, a lot of folks can be pretty uncomfortable with feelings — so between the two it makes for a sticky subject. The really big elephant is that it means: 'Yes, it's true, I am aging. I am getting older.' ... How do I feel about getting older? It can be tough. I know I have my own struggles with it."

Gowan took up yoga more than a decade ago, when she was engaged to be married and had recently quit smoking. "I had so much energy I thought my head would pop off." Having created and taught courses on mindful motherhood yoga and workplace yoga, she is now addressing her own change-of-life struggles and those of other women with **"Riding the Change,"** a workshop at **7th Heaven Yoga Studio** (2820 Seventh St., Berkeley) on Saturday, January 30. Featuring postures, breathwork, discussion, and what Gowan calls "congenial commiseration," the class focuses on that transitional time in women's lives known as perimenopause, a span of several years during which the menstrual cycle is gradually shutting down and shifting hormones cause hot flashes, mood swings, and sleepless nights — among other unsettling symptoms.

"Technically, perimenopause is the time before our ovaries stop but when the body's system is heading in that direction. Granted, we are always in change, but for women this is the big change," said Gowan, who was inspired to create the class after listening to mind/body medicine pioneer Joan Borysenko's CD *Menopause: An Initiation into Power*. Certain yoga practices are known to alleviate some of perimenopause's classic discomforts, and Gowan wanted to teach them in an environment where women could discuss experiences that they were afraid or ashamed to bring up in public.

One helpful pose is known as *Viparita Karani*, or "Legs up the Wall." Gowan calls it "one of those magic poses" in the sense that "if you are tired, it can help give you energy; if you are overstimulated or anxious, it can help calm you down. It's an inversion, and they are excellent for the neuroendocrine system. Hormones are in a delicate balance with the endocrine system and anything you can do to support the balance is helpful. As it turns out, going upside-down can be really helpful." This pose entails lying on the floor or a mat facing a wall. The straight legs rest vertically against the wall with the pelvis elevated above the chest, supported by a cushion under the buttocks.

"The title of the class is the yogic perspective," Gowan explained. "'Riding the Change' means to go with it like a girl surfer on a big wave, no matter what is coming at you. And hey, sometimes it can feel like a *really* big wave. It's in these transformational times that we can take the bull by the horns and really go into it. ... I hope the taboo of discussing this powerful time of life is in the midst of change. Women need to be able to say what it is, which is: 'My brain is rewiring itself, so please give me a little compassion here.'" 1 p.m., $40-$50. 7thHeavenYoga.com

— Anneli Rufus

To share this story go to: ebx.sh/[illegible]/gowan

HEALTH & WELLNESS

AIDS Project of the East Bay The Alameda County organization provides free HIV counseling and testing, support groups, case management services, assistance with benefits, transportation, and emergency housing, emergency food vouchers, and more. Volunteer opportunities available. Daily. AIDS Project of the East Bay, 1755 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-7979, APEB.org.

Bay Gazelle Stroller Strides Fitness program for moms to incorporate power walking, jogging, body toning, and strength and flexibility training into their baby strolls. 800-655-8295 or StrollerStrides.net/oakland. Fridays, 9:30 a.m., first class free; $120 for 10-class [illegible]. Bay St. Emeryville.

Breast Cancer Support Group for Oakland, Berkeley & Women Registration required; call 510-845-8213. Third and First Mondays of every month, 4-6 p.m., free. Markstein Cancer Education and Prevention Center, 450 30th St., Room 3810, Oakland. 510-869-6833.

Community Healing Night With workshops and demos by professional healers and technicians. Refreshments, vouchers. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Continues through Dec. 30, free. Rhythmic Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060, RhythmicWorks.org.

Rorty's Kids Salvation Army A month health van where doctors provide immunizations, health education, check-ups, blood pressure monitoring, and Head Start screenings entirely free to students. Onsite physician & friend waiting. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. First Wednesday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m. 510-444-4320. Salvation Army, 2794 Garden St., Oakland. 510-437-9437. SalvationArmyUSA.org.

You're Healthy, What? And Then? [illegible] for a rejuvenation acupuncture with Rena Jangel. Sat., Jan. 30, 12-2 p.m. 510-283-7565, [illegible]. Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, 8728 College Ave., Oakland.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Your & Time: Creative Ways to Play with Your Baby Four-session course with Kim [illegible] includes songs, massage, and heuristic play. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. Continues through Feb. 4. $69. Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-465-4793. LakeMerrittUMC.org.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Adult Children Education An ongoing support group. Registration required; call 510-[illegible] for info and location. Fourth Thursday of every month, 3-5:30 p.m. East Bay various locations, Emeryville.

Introduction to the Jewish Experience Part II of the class series covers the Torah, Jewish & Midrash, Jewish Prayer, the Prayer Book, and anti-Semitism. First Wednesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m. Continues through Feb. 24. $95. Merritt College, 12500 Campus Dr., Oakland. 510-531-4911. Merritt.edu

Living Judaism Eight-session course teaches Hebrew and meditation. Mondays, 8 p.m. Continues through Feb. 15. $140-$180. Chochmat HaLev, 2215 Prince St., Berkeley. 510-704-9687. Chochmat.org.

Personal Theology Seminars Guest speakers every week. Sundays, 10-11 a.m., free. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

Gentle Healing Yoga Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. $7-$12. Piedmont Yoga Studio, 3966 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on moving, breathing, improvising, and playing. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. $10-$25. InterPlayce, 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-465-2797. InterPlay.org.

Tai Chi Chih Class Six-week tai chi course. Thursdays, 11 a.m. Continues through Feb. 25. $50. Home of Truth Spiritual Center, 1306 Grand St., Alameda. 510-522-3364. HomeofTruth.com.

Yoga for Recovery from Addiction A true Hatha Flow class for people in 12-step recovery. For anyone who is recovering from addiction, [illegible], is welcome. Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. Free. Square One Yoga [illegible], 4336 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. SquareOneYoga.com.

PICKS

Womanist Worship Service

Developed over the last twenty years, womanist theology is a movement that aims to address, embrace, and empower African American women by reading the Bible from a non-androcentric, antiracist perspective. At the **Ecumenical Center of Berkeley** (1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Jan. 28, the Rev. Donna E. Allen leads a **womanist worship service** focusing on Matthew [illegible], 10 a.m., free. PSR.edu — *Anneli Rufus*

Indian Temple Dance

One of the [illegible] animated [illegible] to be trained in the Balasaraswati lineage of South Indian temple dance, **Sofia Diaz** carries on the 6,000-year-old Devadasi Sadir tradition, which combines rhythm, geometry, and physical concentration to invoke the divine. Having performed for royalty, Diaz performs her sacred art at **Rudramandir** (830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) on Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., $20-$25. Rudramandir.com — *A.R.*

Body-Part Mapping

Based on the Halprin Life-Art Process developed by dance pioneer Anna Halprin, **Body-Part Mapping** is a healing course for women that includes movement, drawing, poetic dialogue, soundmaking, and other activities within a group dynamic. Beginning on Sunday, Jan. 31, at **Monkey Yoga Shala** ([illegible] Ave., Oakland), longtime dance artist and teacher Liz [illegible] leads the seven-week series. 6:30 p.m., $160. MonkeyYoga.com — *A.R.*

Sofia Diaz

Trickster Talk

Confidant and con artist, mischief-maker and sage, creator and destroyer: The Trickster awaits. At **Northbrae Community Church** (941 The Alameda, Berkeley) on Wednesday, Feb. 3, Potawatomi scholar **Terry Wilson**, retired chair of UC Berkeley's Native American Studies department, discusses this universal character's spiritual role as a teacher, healer, challenger, revealer, and friend. 7:30 p.m., free. Northbrae.org — *A.R.*

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AQUARIUM AGE

PLAYING THE BLAME GAME

For the week of January 27
February 9 2010

I'm not sure whether we are reflecting the stars this week or if the stars are mirroring us. And I'm also not sure if it matters. What I do know for sure is that many of us are polarized, divided and antagonistic, a mood that is mimicked by a couple of celestial patterns. For some, this oppositional stance is a welcome opportunity to identify and release frustration. For others, the tension is unwelcome and unbearable. For still more, the air seems rife with resistance and hostility. And, for the rest — or at least those not tuned out through apathy or indifference — the atmosphere seems charged with opportunities for growth and transformation. No matter where you find yourself along the spectrum of this week's energy field, try to keep in mind that opposites can also be seen as complements, especially when we are willing to synthesize what separates and divides through understanding and reconciliation.

The first major "rub" of the week is the second exact square between Saturn and Pluto on January 31. (The first exact contact occurred on November 15, 2009.) Saturn represents structures, Pluto symbolizes power, and squares signify friction. From a personal perspective, the friction generated by this square could spark self-destructive behavior or a need to behave badly in the lives of others. Check your intentions before you put in motion consequences you might later regret. From a collective perspective, this square continues to exacerbate the crumbling foundation of systems that no longer serve. Of course, how you identify those systems depends upon your political persuasion. For my money, the lobbyists would be the first to go: then, once the field was cleared of special interests, it would be easier to see which politicians are actually interested in public service rather than self-service.

The second major source of irritation this week is a Mars opposition to the Venus/Sun conjunction. Finally, Mars can give us something to shout about. For weeks, it's been "out there" on its own, and now, as it opposes Venus and the Sun, several weeks of repressed frustration can unload. Just be careful where you download, as well as whom you download on. If you spent the last several weeks seeing everyone as an enemy, frustrated about making forward progress, or exhausted by more than you can handle, you could be tempted to aim your anger at whoever happens to be in your way. Emotional release is certain to feel good, but it may accomplish more harm than you can imagine. So don't indulge tirades.

Lots of us will aim our anger at President Obama, blaming him for recent failures that keep us tethered to the status quo and under the spell of a cultural paradigm that continues to enslave us through a commitment to ignorance. Perhaps too few of us realize that many of the seemingly insurmountable problems we are facing were put in motion by the previous administration. And while President Obama is not a saint, we are a nation of instant everything. We want instant remedies, including some sort of political penicillin that will bring the financial fever down and make the headaches from what we don't understand go away. But there is no instant cure to what ails. There is only the moment by moment work of conscious living. And no leader can do that work for us. We must each do our own, one realization at a time.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that too.

ARIES Rather than resist the opinion of partners, listen to what's being said. You may not agree, but considering other options will enhance your ability to make informed choices.

TAURUS Conflict between career concerns and personal obligations could leave you slightly frazzled. You won't be able to handle everything; prioritize your time and do the best you can.

GEMINI You're too excited about what's new to sweat the small stuff. So rather than get snared by details, relax. The situation will eventually sort itself out.

CANCER Anxiety about money could trigger confrontations with partners, personal or professional. Be bold, talk about what's worrying you, and enlist your partner's help in finding solutions.

LEO Some of your friends and family will disagree with the way you think certain things should be done. Rather than flatly refuse to consider their opinions, take a deep breath and listen with an open heart.

VIRGO You can brood about the situation or you can speak your mind. If your intention is to punish, your words will fall on deaf ears, but if your intention is to heal, your words will be well received.

LIBRA Difficult conversations with friends or associates could polarize an already delicate situation. Make every effort to make peace, and your determination will help to create a peaceful resolution.

SCORPIO Release the need to control the outcome and you will be able to facilitate a win/win compromise. This is easier said than done, but you will be diffusing the tension.

SAGITTARIUS There's no need to hide behind your pride. If you need help, ask for it, and as your situation calms down, be prepared to offer assistance to others.

CAPRICORN It doesn't have to turn into a financial emergency, but avoiding the drama means assuming leadership. Stay steady, be reasonable, and others will follow your example.

AQUARIUS Read Leo above, then add this: Your innate egalitarian approach will help you to find a fair solution that will empower all participants.

PISCES Apply humor, liberally, to any stressful situation, and you will transform the tension. Remember, laughter is the best medicine for the heart. ●

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Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-8204, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Ralfee Finn.

NO-JUNK ZONE

Nature's Express brings veganism to the final frontier: fast food

By Anneli Rufus

What do we want from fast food? That it be fast, of course. What else? That it be cheap? Convenient? Filling? Portable?

You'll find some, if not all, of these qualities at Nature's Express, which opened this month in a convenient location next to Peet's on Solano Avenue. But in exchange for what's occasionally missing, you get other factors, mainly this: It's vegan. From sturdy black-bean-and-"cheese" burritos to velvety peanut-butter milkshakes to slender, tender air-baked golden "fries" to ten different varieties of "burger," everything served in this spic-and-span snow-white slot — whose seating comprises tall, square stools along a counter — is not only meatless but also milkless, eggless, honeyless, and preservative-free. For a menu whose sixty-something choices span breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks, agave-sweetened desserts, and snacks — and even includes a special section for kids — that's saying a lot.

Crushed pineapple crowned our Spicy Hawaiian Burger along with lettuce, tomato, and crisp purple onion. A salty tempeh slab topped our Bacon Burger. Both were hearty, hefty, savory, and juicy, delivering that incomparable all-American biting-into-a-burger buzz, a rolling cascade of prickly and bland, crunchy and soft. For vegans who have always been shut out of the fast-food scene's ostensible all-inclusiveness, simply peeling a paper wrapper off a bun containing a patty can feel like the acquisition of a basic human right.

Using patties that are mostly made in house, Nature's Express burgers look and feel like their meat-based brethren, but aren't greasy. Nor are they as filling as traditional burgers, which is why eating here may require a mental leap. Depending on your outlook, it's either good news or bad news that this fast food isn't junk food. Instead it's a hybrid, a fusion, evincing a funny-sad fact about America: One by one, diverse cooking styles prove their integration into our culture at large when they are transformed into fast food. Not that Taco Bell is *el más auténtico*, but it certainly mainstreamed Mexican cuisine.

And health-food fast food — already represented in downtown Berkeley by Amanda's Feel Good Fresh Food — might be a wave of the future, because Nature's Express is actually a chain. Knowing all too well the links between diet and disease, Arizona naturologist Cari Myers realized that he couldn't stop his patients from eating fast food, which he calls "one of the worst choices they can make. Traditional fast food is basically high fat, high sugar, and high salt. It is also highly processed, has very little fiber and is full of harmful chemicals. It is truly a toxic food environment — and we see the tragic results with increased rates of obesity, diabetes, and cancer." Accepting that "the fast food habit is very ingrained in our culture," and realizing that "I can't change how people eat, but I can help them change what they eat," Myers created a plant-based version that is high in vitamins, fiber, antioxidants, and phytochemicals. The Berkeley restaurant joins others in Yuma, Arizona and Riverside County's Rancho Mirage.

With its minimalist ambiance and humanoid mascot — a grinning turnip — Nature's Express looks and feels like a fast food joint sans grease spatter and sugar highs, and with rows of vegan cookbooks and healthy-lifestyle manuals on shelves lining the walls. Behind the counter, uniformed workers prepare orders assembly-line-style — not as rapidly as the phrase "fast food" implies, but perhaps they're still learning the ropes. Meanwhile, the huge, wall-mounted menu fails to define this food as vegan. Unwitting newcomers cannot help but assume that cheeseburger means cheeseburger. Another downside is portion size: While wraps and burgers are substantial, salads and side dishes are just barely big enough; sandwiches are borderline, and a single order of "fries" fit easily inside my hand.

I wanted the grilled-tempeh Reuben to go on and on. It's a probiotic three-fer with sauerkraut and crinkle-cut pickles partly complementing the beany richness of a substance whose Indonesian inventors never knew how intensely its presence could evoke happy delicatessen dinners. Another standout was the mashed cauliflower with gravy. Along with mac-and-"cheese" and other items, it's on the kids' menu — but why? Adult palates, too, can appreciate its sophistication disguised as simplicity, its steamed-vegetable verve as a soothingly smooth yet non-starchy, non-greasy, high-antioxidant alternative to a buttery and sometimes paralytically stodgy staple.

One thing most folks want from fast food is predictability. Even if what we predict is a 560-calorie meat sandwich in a sugary bun, we like to know that we won't be surprised. At Nature's Express, we can know that what we're eating is not chemically configured to clog arteries or fatten guts. This seems a simple covenant, one that should be automatic for all food and drink sold anywhere, yet in a world where our bodies and other people's profits intersect, it's not.

Chickpeas, pickles, tomatoes, chopped celery, and dilly vegan mayonnaise effected a persuasively just-fishy-enough whiff in our "Hold the Tuna" sandwich, whose diagonally cut rye slices came from Berkeley's Bread Workshop, as do all the breads used here, including the herbed burger buns. And all produce used here is organic, acquired from San Francisco's Veritable Vegetable and bringing intense flavor to such selections as kale chips, collard-green burritos, avocado-kale wraps (cradled in your choice of lettuce or tortilla), and a carrot-cashew paté so bright and gingery-fresh as to outclass the fast-food tag. But this is the sneaky genius of health-food fast food: Bring 'em in with the basics, because fries and burgers — even veggie burgers — are a gateway drug. Lull them into compliance with shakes. Then whip out the lush, crunchy turnip slaw. The coconut water, served fresh in the shell. The corn-couscous-chutney-roast-red-cabbage burritos. Is this fast food? Now it is. ■

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Nature's Express

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510-527-5331, NaturesExpress.com
Cash, all major credit cards.
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Sample Menu

Spicy Hawaiian Burger	$6.75
Air-baked Fries	$1.95
Avocado-Kale Wrap	$6.25
Grilled Tempeh Reuben	$6.50
Mashed Cauliflower with Gravy	$3.50
Carrot-Cashew Paté	$4.50

The Spicy Hawaiian Burger looks and feels like a real burger, but without the grease.

Chris Duffey

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

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ALAMEDA

[illegible] 2544 [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-522-2220 (Italian) $$$
Angelfish 205 Island Dr., Suite C-2, Alameda, 510-748-0400 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$
[illegible] 2109 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-4000 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$
[illegible] [illegible] Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-5962 (California Cuisine) $$$
Big's Broiler 3111 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-769-9512 (Diner) $
Dragon Rouge 2304 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-521-1800 (Vietnamese) $-$$
[illegible] 1330 Main St., Alameda, (510) 814-6385 (Barbecue) $$
[illegible] 1518 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-0420 (Cuban) $$
La Piñata 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-8111 (Mexican) $$
Ole's Waffle Shop 1507 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-6938 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $
[illegible] 2321 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9131 (California Cuisine) $$$
[illegible] 1350 Park St., Alameda, 510-523-9868 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
[illegible] 1426 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-1441 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

ALBANY KENSINGTON & BERKELEY SOLANO

9 Degrees on Solano 1433 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-8734 (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
Ajanta 1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4373 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Al's Big Burger 431 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-8523 (Diner) $
Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
[illegible] 1166 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-8288 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $
[illegible] 1647 Solano Ave., Berkeley, (510) 528-8578 (Vietnamese) $$
[illegible] 1881 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-1886 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

The Cape Cod 1150 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-3308 (Seafood) $$
[illegible] Village 1235 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-7285 (Chinese) $-$$
Christopher's Gourmet Fancy Cafe 1719 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-1585 (Masonry/South western) $-$$
Fatapple's 1525 [illegible] Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$
Kathmandu [illegible] Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-3822 (Tibetan) $$
Nizza Nizza [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-2563 (Indian/Pakistani) $$
[illegible] 1751 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-5818 (Chinese) $$
Lao Thai Kitchen 1806 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-558-3276 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Southern/Soul Food/Thai/Tunisian) $
Jules la Jaime 825-827 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible]-2592 (French/Italian) $$$
Post Meridian [illegible] Fair View Ave., Albany, 510-515-1350 (French/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Saheus Shatush 1301 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-518-8282 (Indian/Middle Eastern) $
Taqueria Talavera 1561 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-8585 (Taqueria) $
[illegible] 1111 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-1300 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
Vanessa's Bistro 1715 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-8300 (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$
Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950 (Pizza) $-$$

ANTIOCH, PITTSBURG & BRENTWOOD

Saliona's Custom Meats 5491 Lone Tree Way #118, Brentwood, 925-308-7987 (Barbecue/Deli) $
Lil's Gandhian Grubbeats 5811 Lone Tree Way, Brentwood, 925-634-5288 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $
Lucy's Asia Bistro 2500 A Sand Creek Rd., Brentwood, 925-516-4106 (Asian Fusion/Chinese/Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Saturday Farmers' Market, Berkeley, 510-836-8294 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1750 (American/English/Irish/Bar) $$
Bayou [illegible] 2001 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8888 (Indian/Pakistani) $
Bistro Fresh Japanese Cafe 2355 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8011 (Brazilian/Deli/South American) $
Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5833 (Tibetan) $-$$

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Chaat Cafe 2102 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-9434 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $
The Elmwood 2415 Dwight St., Berkeley, 510-643-6373 (Eclectic/Latin) $
Flacos Cerner Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Henry's Restaurant & Cafe 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-809-4630 (California Cuisine) $$
International Meals 2200 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9490 (Eclectic/Deli/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 2074 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0864 (Southeast Asian) $-$$
Long Life Vegi House 2129 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6072 (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Pie in the Sky 2124 Center St., Berkeley, 510-845-0615 (Pizza) $
Vaennas 2047 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-0325 (Central American) $-$$
Pomegranate 1585 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-005-5500 (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$
Sushi Hoshi Rangi 2058 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0807 (Japanese/Sushi) $
Thai Dragon Cuisine 1780 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-8011 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
Top dog 2160 Center St., Berkeley, 510-849-0176 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
Xyno 2327 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5950 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Sandwiches/American/Italian/Pakistani) $-$$$
Zaba Zaba 1919 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-849-3228 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$
Zatar 1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1981 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

BERKELEY-NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2827 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Cafe Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 415-824-4652 ext. 3 (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
Casa Latina 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-TI 7 (Bakery/Mexican) $
Cesar's Mexican Restaurant 1841 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8400 (Mexican) $-$$
Cesar 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$
Cha-Ya 1686 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-1213 (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055 (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $
Chez Panisse 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5525 downstairs/510-548-5049 cafe (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$
Corso 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004 (Italian) $$$
De Lauz 1574 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1882 (Chinese/Dessert/Ice Cream) $
Estaquee's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Dessert/French/Pastries) $-$$
Flacos Rose Street at Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Gioia Pizzeria 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley, 510-528-4692 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $
Grégoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Little Indian Kitchen 1580 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7190 (Indian) $$-$$$
Mosta Taqueria 1[illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-4811 (Mexican) $
Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3354 (Deli/Kosher/Halal/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Top dog 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Adagia 2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Berkeley, 510-548-3838 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Sabores of India 2448 Piedmont St., Berkeley, 510-848-7884 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Cafe Valparaiso 1776 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]-3870 (South American) $$
Cafe Clara 2148 Shattuck St., Berkeley, 510-548-0435 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$
Ginkgo 1560 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1117 (Chinese/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$
Flacos Derby Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1672 (Middle Eastern) $
Homemade Cafe 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-845-1940 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $
Kirala 2100 Ward St., Berkeley, 510-848-3338 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
Smokehouse 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3640 (American) $
Sweet Dreams Bakeshop 3350 Stanford St., Berkeley, 510-515-7281 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$
Top dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5081 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
Vanessa 2533 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-8898 (Asian Fusion/Vietnamese/Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$
Wat [illegible] 2011 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-849-3410 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

Bandolero 1014-1016 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-868-4016 (Thai/Burmese) $$
The Bueno American 1308 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-9240 (Italian/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Cafe M 1750 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-526-4400 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
Sabores Dueños 1321 Ocala St., Emeryville, 510-923-0491 (Mexican) $$
[illegible] & Fresh American 1050 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 548-8892 (Japanese) $$
Pablo 1820 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-224-1095 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
IKEA 4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-420-4532 (Scandinavian/Furniture & Home Furnishings) $
Pablo Village 1275 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-5890 (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher/Halal) $
Rotisserie Soul 2807 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-6060 (Caribbean) $
Rosie Rosa's 1250 Ocala St., Berkeley, 510-528-3435 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Saravana 1936 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3355 (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher/Halal) $
Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1652 (Pizza/Art Galleries) $
Mala Restaurante 2300 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-888-4170 (Mexican/Salvadoran) $$
Ocarina 1220 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-3971 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $
Priya Indian Cuisine 2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-2911 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
Andy's Thai Fast Cuisine 4080 Adeline St., Emeryville, 510-594-1200 (American/Diner) $-$$
Sushi on the Bay 1181 Emeryville Dr., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (American/Seafood) $$
Sauce 1530 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-845-5650 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $
Vik's 726 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4412 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Street Foods) $

CONCORD, MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

Kabul Kabob 2699 Monument Blvd., Concord, 925-685-5480 (Afghan/Persian) $
Sabores Custom Meats 2224 Morello Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-798-2333 (Barbecue/Deli) $
Sabores Custom Meats 1630 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, 925-675-8080 (Barbecue/Deli) $
Ltd. Pleasant Hill Collective 600 Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill, (925) 687-3103 (Barbecue/Pakistani) $
La Mexicana 401 Willow Pass Rd., Concord, 925-609-9815 (Mexican) $$
La Veranda 1154 Sutter St., Ste. J, Concord, 925-521-0181 (Italian) $$-$$$
Taqueria Los Gallos 2180 Monument Blvd., Suite B, Concord, 925-682-7120 (Mexican) $

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

Cafe Guerrero 11200 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-515-8935 (Taqueria) $
El Cielito 3748 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-222-0807 (Mexican/Peruvian/South American) $$
The Jelly Fish 20658 San Pablo Ave., Crockett, 510-787-2003 (American/Seafood) $$-$$$
Station City Cafe 399 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-558-6145 (American/California Cuisine) $$
Pablo Mac 30 Washington Avenue, Richmond, 510-233-0526 (American) $$$
Katapulo 3600 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-223-6815 (Central American) $
Sabores Custom Meats 3608 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1, Hercules, 510-224-2332

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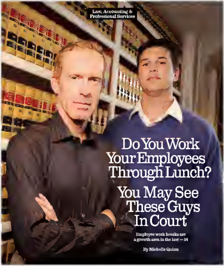

Law, Accounting & Professional Services

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Urban Renewal Through Retail

The City of Oakland attempts to invigorate some East Oakland neighborhoods by creating new retail districts on city property

By [illegible] Young

That there's nowhere to shop in Oakland is a common gripe with at least a grain of truth to it. Ever try to buy a head of lettuce near the Coliseum or furnish an apartment without leaving the city limits? Established commercial districts notwithstanding, Oakland has long struggled to convince its residents to spend money within its borders. *Story inside*

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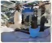

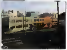

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Neighborhood Revitalization Through Retail

The City of Oakland attempts to invigorate some East Oakland neighborhoods by creating new retail districts on city property

By Bernice Yeung

That there's nowhere to shop in Oakland is a common gripe with at least a grain of truth to it. Ever try to buy a head of lettuce near the Coliseum or furnish an apartment without leaving the city limits? Established commercial districts notwithstanding, Oakland has long struggled to convince its residents to spend money within its borders.

"We used to have a lot of department stores selling general goods," said Keira Williams, a retail specialist with the Oakland Community and Economic Development Agency. "But it all migrated. Now we leak a lot of money and Oakland residents spend money on those goods elsewhere." In fact, a 2008 city-commissioned retail enhancement plan notes that the municipality loses about $1 billion a year in retail sales — and $10 million in sales tax — to its neighbors.

So the city is hoping that the transformation of city-owned properties in underserved areas into "neighborhood retail districts" will help stem the outflow of Oaklanders' consumer spending. This fall, the city issued a call for proposals for ten sites located in redevelopment areas, with a number of parcels located near the Coliseum and in East Oakland on a southern stretch of Foothill Boulevard between Fruitvale and 73rd Street. The agency is currently evaluating thirteen proposals — mixed-use developments that include retail on the ground floors — for seven of those properties. Final recommendations will be made to the city council before the end of March.

One proposal involves a boutique hotel, housing, parking, and office space for a site near the Fox Theater. Meanwhile, a project submitted by the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation for a property in East Oakland would result in senior housing atop retail, such as a pharmacy.

"Some of these projects will change dramatically the physical, aesthetic, and economic environment of these neighborhoods and some will bring the necessary amenities a neighborhood needs," said City Councilmember Desley Brooks, who helped the redevelopment agency select three of the retail sites in her East Oakland district. "Hopefully, we will be able to attract more development and restore the commercial corridors in the neighborhoods because you can't just have one part of town having all amenities and all the others lacking these things."

New shops and storefronts could be a boon to residents, but whether they'll be a dynamic catalyst for Oakland's overall neighborhood redevelopment efforts remains to be seen. "Retail is a really, really tricky thing to do well, especially right now," said Karen Chapple, an associate professor of City and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley. "And it's a chicken-or-egg question: If you bring in retail, will it revitalize a neighborhood, or is retail more likely to come if the people are already there? One of the things we've found (in our research) is that the retailers were following people, so it can be harder to lead with the retail to make changes to a neighborhood."

"A lot of thought went into the retail plan and it is an impressive first step," said Chapple, who reviewed the document at the request of Bay Curious. "So then how do you go to the next step without falling into the old patterns of 'let's grab any old developer who might be interested and give away the store,' so to speak?"

Retail Tour: Chocolatiers

Seems you can't walk more than a few blocks in some East Bay neighborhoods nowadays without being enticed into a specialty chocolate shop. Perhaps it's no surprise — they say that confections are recession proof and chocolates of the artisanal variety are projected to reach $4.5 billion in sales in 2011. Beyond chocolate's eternal appeal, we also happen to be in the midst of the "second American chocolate renaissance," according to Chuck Siegel, founder of Charles Chocolates (6529 Hollis St., Emeryville; CharlesChocolates.com).

"With this new crop of confectioners you're seeing dedication to the art of chocolate," Siegel said. "You're seeing fresh Straus cream, fresh herbs, and real fruit instead of flavor compounds. And you're seeing much more attention to how the product is presented than ever before."

Known for crafting handsome squares of dark chocolate and toothsome caramels, Siegel has been working with Picán (2295 Broadway, Oakland; PicanRestaurant.com) to produce truffles flavored with the small-batch Kentucky bourbons found on the Southern restaurant's extensive bar list; they will be available starting in February.

Wendy and Susan Lieu, the sisters behind Socola Chocolates (available at Daily Delectables, 3249 Grand Ave., Oakland; SocolaChocolates.com), have also found a winning combination in the booze-chocolate combo: Socola's Beer and Bacon Truffle set includes its popular Guinness-infused truffle and a chocolate that's been dubbed "notorious H.O.G." because it's made with Niman Ranch applewood-smoked bacon and a pinch of black Hawaiian sea salt. The Lieus are also keen to reference their travels and Southeast Asian heritage with truffle flavors such as Give It To Me Guava, Ca Phe Sua (Vietnamese espresso), and Tamarind Black Sesame. The sisters started making truffles as teenagers, selling them outside of their parent's Santa Rosa nail salon as part of a summer farmers' market, and they sound downright giddy over how much their business has grown. "It's a space to be creative, we get flavors from our family and life experiences, and we come up with ideas by saying, 'Wouldn't it be cool if ...?'" Susan said.

Barlovento (638 2nd St., Oakland; BarloventoChocolates.com) also had its beginnings at a farmers' market in 2003, when owner Peter Brydon discovered what he has deemed to be the most delectable freshly dried Bing cherries. He decided to create a confection that "let the cherry and the chocolate speak for themselves," and he turned a hobby into a successful business after getting laid off from Charles Schwab in 2006. He's since become a fixture at local farmers' markets himself, adding honey and almonds — products he buys from other farmers' market vendors — to his confectionary repertoire. Brydon also makes a hyperlocal Meyer-lemon zest truffle with fruit harvested from his customers' backyard citrus trees; he rewards lemon donators with a $10 credit or a batch of the finished product.

Brydon has also created a hive of chocolatiers by renting out his expansive kitchen near Jack London Square to Vive Chocolates (Oakland Temescal Farmers' Market; ViveChocolates.com) and the Oakland Chocolate Company (638 2nd St., Oakland; TheOaklandChocolateCo.com), the latter of which is one of a few local establishments to actually make the chocolate on-site through the bean-to-bar process, using cacao from a Jamaican farming cooperative. Owner Nancy Nadel — who may be more familiar to most as Oakland's longtime District 3 councilwoman — fills her bonbons and truffles with Caribbean-inspired flavors, such as lime-pepper jelly.

Seneca Klassen, co-owner of the beloved East Bay chocolate hub Bittersweet Café (5427 College Ave., Oakland; BittersweetCafe.com) also makes small batches of bean-to-bar dark chocolate, which he's dubbed Bittersweet Origins Chocolate. Every few months, he drives down to the Oakland dock to pick up a shipment of cacao that he buys directly from farmers in Bali and the Dominican Republic. "Cacao is a tropical crop, and the chocolate is manufactured somewhere else, so we get disconnected from the story," he said. "But it's a complicated and amazing food and my goal is education."

And then there's Alegio (1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley; Alegio.com), Bellatrix Confections (22812 Parkhill Ct., Unit 1, Hayward; BellatrixConfections.com), Chocolatier Blue (1964 University Ave. and 1809 4th St., Berkeley; ChocolatierBlue.com), Coracao Confections (at Whole Foods stores, CoracaoConfections.com), Edible Love (EdibleLove.com), Michael Mischer Chocolates (3352 Grand Ave., Oakland; MichaelMischerChocolates.com), TCHO (various locations; TCHO.com), and the Xocolate Bar (1709 Solano Ave., Berkeley; TheXocolatebar.com).

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Small Business Roundtable

Running a Business With 26 CEOs

At Arizmendi Oakland, there are no bosses, management hierarchies, or pay differentials. For Kamil Dawson, that is liberating, and sometimes challenging.

By [illegible] Young

Arizmendi Oakland takes its name and vision from a World War II-era Basque priest who sought to rebuild the ravaged local economy by developing democratic, worker-owned businesses. Since adopting the successful Spanish cooperative model in 1997 the bustling bakery has been doing some serious business — last year, despite the economic downturn, profits were up, and it began opening on Sundays, all while providing generous salaries and benefits to its owner-workers. The Arizmendi chain of bakeries, which includes outposts in Emeryville and San Francisco, also continues to expand. This year, Arizmendi plans to open new locations in San Rafael and San Francisco's Mission District. I spoke to **Kamil Dawson**, who has been with the bakery since 2002, about co-owning — and working in — a thriving cooperative.

How did Arizmendi get started?

We are modeled after the Cheeseboard in Berkeley. They started up in the early Seventies and grew and flourished. They knew they had to expand. But instead of opening new stores, we used a co-op model to open up our own bakery. It's like a franchise, with a similar business structure and recipes.

Now we are a 26-member worker-owned co-op. In some collectives, you can buy in to the co-op and be part of the decision making process, but you're not a worker. But Arizmendi, being worker-owned, you own a percentage of the business but you are also set to work a schedule.

What steps did you have to take to get the co-op up and running?

Being a retail co-op, which was a newer kind of business model, it was hard to get a loan and capital, so we had to get private lenders and individuals who wanted to support the business. The Cheeseboard had individuals come in and we trained with them and they shared their recipes and they gave us used equipment to get started.

In the process, what was created was the Association of Arizmendi Cooperatives, and that's a separate cooperative and they're in charge of opening other bakeries. We give a percentage of yearly profits to the association. They give us important and needed services, such as accounting and legal support.

Chris Duffey

Kamil Dawson of Arizmendi Oakland.

Ask Joel Makower

Next month, we're interviewing **Joel Makower**, *author of Strategies for the Green Economy and executive editor of Oakland's Greener World Media, which publishes GreenBiz.com. To submit your questions to* **Joel Makower**, *search for* **Ask Joel Makower** *on our web site and leave your question or questions as a comment by Wednesday, February 10.*

What are the challenges and benefits of using a co-op model?

There's a polarity between the positives and the challenging aspects. Consensus decision-making can be a real challenge. You may feel passionately about something but the group is focused on something else, and sometimes you are too passionate about something so you have to realize that you're preventing the process from moving forward.

The benefits are that we pay ourselves equally, which is $19.41 an hour right now, no matter how many years you've been here. The equal pay is a reflection of a value that we wanted to uphold — that we are all equals and what you do is not greater than what I do. We share all of the profits and twice a year, we also get paid out a percentage of the profits from the previous year, which can range from an additional $3 an hour up to $10. That's a really nice addition to our already good base wage.

Another benefit is having a voice in the business and being able to take up something in any number of areas that you want to be involved in. If you have skills in baking, you may come up with new product ideas, or if I'm looking to retire in eight years, I can help with a benefits committee and review the 401(k) options. There are ways that your input has a voice in the business, and you have an outlet to being heard.

How are decisions made in the co-op?

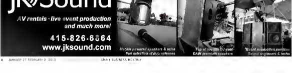
Decisions are made during monthly meetings. We put it on the agenda. A subcommittee will create a proposal, and it's distributed four to five days before the meeting so people can read it over and ask questions before things are discussed openly in the group.

How are the meetings run?

Each meeting has a facilitator who has been trained. Each topic on the agenda has a certain amount of time attached to it and if we go over that time, then the facilitator checks in with the group to see if they want to do a vote or extend the time that we spend on that subject because we haven't gotten to a resolution.

Even though you try to run a flat organization, doesn't hierarchy creep in?

There is a natural hierarchy that happens, like it does in any job. But it's always important to be working with someone who can both take directions and who is willing to give directions, so someone who has the flexibility to wear dif-



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What Accounting Application is Right for Your Small Business?

by Micle Sullivan, Janus Networks

Traditional

Intuit Quickbooks 2010 -- The Pro and Premium versions of this program are so feature rich they're almost a whole business management suite. You can see a one page snapshot of your company's finances, download your credit and bank transactions to integrate with Quickbooks, generate over one hundred business reports with one click, scan and deposit your checks from your office with Intuit Check solution, accept debit and credit cards within the program, track time and expenses to bill clients, organize and back up documents in the cloud, create email marketing campaigns and more. All this on top of creating invoices, printing checks, managing payroll and tracking sales & taxes.

The most obvious downside is the upfront cost: Pro is $199.95 for one user. A learning curve comes with its wide functionality. Also, most of the more complex features are only available through your desktop version, so if you prefer to work online you may prefer one of the following web-based programs.

Easy as Pie

LessAccounting -- This product is specifically positioned as a simple, easy to use, web-based alternative to Quickbooks. The website says its creators "just needed to manage our contacts, money in, money out and reports. That was it." It also has an optional mileage tracker and integrates with other online programs such as Shopify, Basecamp and Paypal. Free to $24/month based on the feature set you need.

Ledgerble -- The simplest program I encountered, with only one payment option of $14/month. Check invoices in three clicks. The system will remember previous entries for minimal typing. Track your accounts and create simple custom reports you can drill into. Accounting zen.

Cash Flow Based

AccountingASAP -- Another very easy to use program. This is a invoice-based accounting system, with a pricing structure based on the number of transactions (300 per month for $13). Make easy invoices with just a few clicks. It also tracks payments and inventory and generates simple reports. No deep feature set here, but one of the most affordable applications if you want multiple logins and don't have a huge amount of transactions.

Pulse -- Pulse shows you the cash flow of your business from a variety of different angles. It feels a bit like Google Analytics for your income. The reports are simple and immediately intuitive. Prices range from $8 to $24/month based on the number of users and amount of storage.

Project Based

Cobalt -- Cobalt ties all expenses and income back to a specific project, for easier organization and billing. The interface is simple and easy to use. It also includes a simple inventory or "stock" tracking system and a contact database that allows you to group together contacts. Cobalt creates a variety of reports that you can drill down into for more detail. Get unlimited users for $11.25 a month.

FreeAgent -- This program is aimed at freelancers or any small service based business. It guides you through creating estimates, tracking time and monitoring payments. FreeAgent also offers a time tracking widget to log billable hours and based reports for invoicing. $20/month.

Reports

Merchant's Mirror -- Ever wish accounting was a little more fun and sexy? So must Merchant's mirror. It tries to brush the drab away with colorful graphs in an interactive, customizable dashboard. A bit like Pulse, but with a few more optional roles and vendor management for product oriented businesses. $15.95 monthly or $169.95 annually.

If You Need Extra Support

IAC-EZ -- This program has a lot of the same functionality of many of the others on this list: an overall snapshot of your finances, easy invoice creation, a tax calculator. What really sets IAC-EZ apart is its accountant support and community forums. If you have harder bookkeeping issues, this program is probably the one for you. $18.99/month

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ferent hats at different times. If there's a crisis, someone has to step up and take on a leadership role.

How does conflict get resolved if there's no hierarchy?

Sometimes riffs happen. If there is personal conflict, we have a mediation team both outside and inside the bakery. A lot of work is team based, and within your team you're working things out constantly. We try to defuse a problem as soon as it comes up. And some problems take a process with the entire membership to be resolved.

It sounds like bringing in the right people is especially crucial.

Yes, you need to bring on people who are self-motivated and disciplined, and who have a strong work ethic. Because if you don't do it, then someone else has to do it. No one is monitoring your progress; you have to be willing to follow through with tasks and responsibilities. The quality that we look for in members is someone who is not waiting for someone to tell them what to do.

How do you gauge who would be a good fit?

We watch how people work and how they take feedback. We bring people in for twelve hours over several weeks. They shadow someone and try out different tasks and we evaluate them. Then we bring them in for a group interview. If we really connect with them, then we bring them on for a six month trial candidacy. We train them on specific shifts, and they go to meetings related to the history and other ideas that are important for understanding the collective.

By the end of six months, there will have been three different evaluations, which are pretty intense. We give them constructive feedback, time for them to voice their concerns, feedback from their sponsor who has been working alongside them. Then it goes to a full vote and the candidate has to get a 75 percent positive vote to be invited in.

Do you think it's possible to adapt qualities of a co-op into a more traditional business model?

Yes, by inviting more communication and allowing employees to share ideas and express their feelings. As a business owner it's about finding people to take on managerial roles who encourage communication and take employees into consideration and encourage employee decisionmaking.

When you have an employee coming in every day and giving you their energy and their time, they are adding to the success of your business. So every way that you can support that individual — whether you're giving them fantastic pay or paid time off or benefits — then they're going to respond by also taking on a sense of responsibility, especially if you're inviting them to give feedback and creative solutions. To me, those are the basic things to making a successful and harmonious business — making employees a key ingredient to that success. ■

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The Entrepreneurial Lawyer

How to Raise Money But Not Break the Bank

State and federal laws restrict your ability to secure capital. But with imagination, there are ways to do it without spending all your money on experts.

By Jenny Kassan

So you're trying to raise money for your business. But banks aren't lending, your savings are inadequate, and borrowing against the credit card isn't optimal. So you decide to raise money from your customers and put a sign in your window inviting people to invest in your business. Congratulations — you have just violated securities law and could face severe penalties.

Raising money from investors can be a great way to create or expand a business. Unlike lenders, investors typically forgo regular payments of interest and principal in exchange for the possibility of a bigger return down the road. But there is a huge barrier to raising capital from investors: securities law.

The regulations governing securities are little understood by most business owners. In my practice I have seen small business owners who have no idea that their efforts to raise capital violate state and federal securities law.

It's helpful to recall why securities laws were passed. One big cause of the 1929 stock market crash was the lack of regulation of securities markets. Any charlatan could print stock certificates promising huge returns to investors who had little recourse when the certificates turned out to be worthless. In response, Congress passed the Securities Act of 1933. This act, along with state securities laws, is designed to protect unsophisticated investors from losing their life savings in speculative investments.

The basic requirement is that a security cannot be sold unless it is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and regulators in any state where investors reside. Registration requires extensive disclosures and compliance with numerous technical rules. This is what is commonly known as going public, a process that can easily cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal, accounting, and other fees and costs. There are some exceptions to the requirement, but even those can involve complicated compliance work and thousands of dollars in legal fees and other costs.

Many people assume that these requirements apply only when selling stock, but this is not the case. A security is any instrument such as a stock, bond, note or contract that is purchased by someone who is expecting to receive profits generated by the efforts of others. Even if someone lends you money for your business and you promise an interest payment, that transaction can be covered by securities regulations. In fact, the rules apply not just to the sale but to the offering of a security, so even putting up a sign advertising a chance to invest in your business violates the law.

This is very frustrating, not only for business owners but also for people who would love to invest in their local economy. Because of these laws, even if I wanted to invest in a wonderful and hugely profitable business next door, I couldn't do it unless the business spent thousands of dollars for legal compliance. Unless I am a so-called "accredited investor" with a net worth of at least $1 million or a personal income exceeding $200,000, my only option is to invest in companies that have gone public. These companies are primarily giant multinational corporations whose practices I might not support and which contribute very little to my community.

So what is a small business owner to do? Here are some ways to raise funds that do not require extensive securities-compliance work.

Form a cooperative. In California there is an exemption from securities regulations for investments of up to $300 by members of a cooperative. Cooperatives are businesses formed under a cooperative statute in which the members each have one vote. The members can be employees, customers, or business owners who join together to market their products or services. As long as the cooperative and all of its members are based in California and the co-op transacts most of its business in California, it also is exempt from federal securities law.

Get donations. A security creates an expectation that the investor will receive a return. If someone gives you money with no expectation of a return, that is not a security and isn't subject to securities regulations. Many entrepreneurs are using so-called crowdfunding web sites such as ChipIn.com and MicroPledge.com to raise money for various causes.

Raising investment can be a great way to create or expand a business. But securities law is a huge barrier

Donations of this type are not tax deductible, but lots of people might be willing to chip in to support a great local business.

Sell memberships. If someone gives you money in exchange for something of value that is not considered a security. An interesting example of this strategy can be found at BeerBankroll.com. This crowdfunding platform is selling $50 memberships to open a brewpub. Membership confers a T-shirt, a chance to win prizes, and the opportunity to participate in a community-managed brewpub. If you can provide a membership package that people are willing to pay for, this can be a great way to raise money without selling securities.

Pre-sell a product. *Awaken Café*, the much loved Oakland coffee shop, sold Café Creator cards. Oakland residents purchased cards that entitled them to cafe products valued at more than the purchase price of the card. For example, a $1,000 card entitled the holder to $1,200 worth of purchases once the cafe opened. Like the membership option, this is the purchase of something of value and therefore not a security.

As entrepreneurs know, creativity can go a long way to make a business thrive. This is as true in the legal realm as in any other. ●

Jenny@KassanLaw.com

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Losing a Partner? Don't Lose the Business

Why you and your partners may need a buy-sell agreement

By Jonathan DeYoe

If you and your spouse die without a formal guardianship plan for your kids, the state decides who raises them. If you become incapacitated without an advance health care directive, a judge chooses someone to make your medical decisions for you. Likewise, if you and I own a bookstore together and I die tomorrow, the courts will calculate how my percentage will be distributed unless we put a succession plan in place today.

You have no doubt heard the expression "not making a decision is a decision." When I am talking to a client who is a partner in a successful business venture, I like to modify the saying in this manner: "Not having a plan is a plan ... and not a very good one."

This is particularly true for a small business when one of the partners can no longer fulfill their role because of death, incapacity, or an opportunity to explore their passion for painting in the south of France. Thousands of laws and legal precedents could determine who owns how much of the business if she and her other colleagues haven't done the groundwork necessary to assure a smooth transition. If they don't plan adequately, they'll be left at the mercy of the system.

Since entrepreneurs rarely like the government dictating their behavior, it amazes me how few craft buy-sell agreements. At some point, the ownership structure of your successful dental practice or tattoo parlor is bound to change. When this happens, your business will be affected. Fortunately, your ability to control the outcome can be greatly enhanced by careful planning.

An effective buy-sell agreement covers how and to whom a partner's ownership interest can be sold and describes how that ownership interest will be valued. The agreement also maps out what will happen when various triggering events occur, e.g., the death, incapacity, retirement, termination, divorce, or bankruptcy of an owner. Agreements generally have three parts: valuation, structure, and financing.

There are many ways a business can be valued — and ample opportunity for competing agendas if the methodology isn't clearly spelled out. If a company's founding partner dies, her spouse's need to grieve for six months may outweigh any interest he or she has in the future of the partnership. In this scenario, the spouse would prefer a valuation method that affords a higher buyout, while the remaining partners want a valuation method that minimizes the buyout. This conflict can be avoided by agreeing upon a suitable valuation methodology at the beginning of the partnership and documenting it in a buy-sell agreement long before disaster strikes.

Determining the agreement's structure can be even more challenging. This has tax consequences for both the family of the departed owner and the remaining partners. The potential for the greatest tax benefits accrues to a "cross-purchase agreement," but "stock-redemption agreements" are simpler. In a cross-purchase agreement, each partner buys insurance on the other partners. If a partner dies, the insurance buys out his share. The fewer the partners, and the more similar they are in age and health, the more likely this will work.

With a stock-redemption agreement, the corporation bears the cost of the insurance policies. A big disadvantage of stock-redemption agreements is that the value of the surviving partners' shares will be calculated using the value on the date the partnership was established, not on the date their partner left. As a result, should any partner leave the partnership prior to death, the remaining partners' capital gains taxes will be higher than if they had bought out a departing partner under a cross-purchase agreement.

After the questions of valuation and structure are determined, the partnership should decide how to finance the buy-sell agreement. It may be possible to "self finance" the agreement. Self-financing means the company will pay the pre-determined valuation price out of cash flow or borrow the money for the buyout and pay it off over time. This is only suitable for a profitable enterprise.

Another financing option is to purchase cash-value life insurance policies for the partners. In the event of a partner's incapacity, retirement, or termination, the cash value of the insurance can be used to fund the entire buyout, or it can be used as a down payment. In the event of a partner's death, the life insurance proceeds would be used to fund the buyout.

Buy-sell agreements usually aren't expensive, but crafting one should be given the time and attention it deserves. Hire a knowledgeable attorney, and don't just discuss the business aspects with your partners. Often spouses must sign such agreements, as they may be considered owners even if they don't participate in the enterprise. Couples should talk to their financial advisors and attorney to understand how the different elements of such an agreement relate to their finances.

> If you don't plan adequately for these life transitions, you will be left at the mercy of the system

You have to work hard to build a successful business. Before you decide not to make a decision about putting together a buy-sell agreement, think again. Not having a plan may be a plan, but you, your partners, your family and your business deserve better. ●

Jonathan DeYoe is a certified private wealth advisor and an LPL Financial registered principal. Securities and financial planning offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC. This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal or tax advice. Consult your attorney or accountant for such advice to determine what is appropriate for your situation. Info@DeYoeWealthManagement.com

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Berkeley's Pot Club Mistake

Because of an apparent oversight by the city council, a pot club is about to move near a private elementary school and a preschool. And local businesses aren't happy about it, either.

By Robert Gammon

When the Berkeley City Council voted in 2004 to block medical marijuana dispensaries from doing business within 1,000 feet of public schools, it seemed like a sensible move. After all, few people would argue that kids should spend most of their day next to a pot club, even if the facility does provide legitimate, important services. But the council apparently neglected to include private schools, preschools, and day-care centers in its ordinance. So now, six years later, a medical marijuana club is planning to move to a site in West Berkeley close to both a private elementary school and a day-care facility, and the schools, along with local businesses, may end up going to court to stop it.

The Berkeley Patients Group, which has been on San Pablo Avenue for several years, plans to move into the old Scharffen Berger chocolate factory at the corner of Heinz Avenue and Seventh Street, near West Berkeley Bowl market. The building appears to be roughly 500 to 600 feet from a private French school, Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley, and is even closer to Aquatic Park Preschool. "We are not opposed to medical marijuana per se, but we think it's reasonable to ask that our students and the children at Aquatic Park Preschool have the same protection under the law as other school children in Berkeley," French school spokeswoman Jennifer Monahan said in a statement.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates said in an interview that he believes that the council did not purposely exclude private schools and day-care centers from the 2004 law and had merely made a mistake. "I think it was an oversight," he said, "a straight-out oversight." A city report on the 2004 law notes that councilmembers decided to include the provision restricting pot club locations out of "concerns that entities that deal in controlled substances should not be located near schools."

However, it's not clear whether the council plans to fix the law to include private schools, preschools, and day-care centers, and thus block the Berkeley Patients Group's planned move. Bates did not say what he intends to do, and Councilman Darryl Moore, who represents the West Berkeley area in question and has been dealing with the issue, did not return a phone call seeking comment.

In addition to the private school's concerns, several local businesses that have been attempting to revitalize West Berkeley and transform it into a green tech corridor also are upset about what's happening. "We are not opposed to medical marijuana, but we strongly oppose that use for that site," said Chris Barlow, a partner at Wareham Development, which owns the Aquatic Park business center across the street from the old Scharffen Berger building and has been successful at attracting green-tech and life-sciences companies in recent years. "It's just a totally inappropriate use for that location."

But if the council fails to change the law, then there may be little to stop the pot club. The reason is a 2008 ballot initiative approved by 63 percent of Berkeley voters. Measure JJ essentially granted the city's three pot clubs, including the Berkeley Patients Group, the right to move anywhere in the city without having to go through the normal permitting process. The only restriction was that it prohibited pot clubs from being in sections of the city where retail also is banned, such as residential areas.

The Berkeley Patients Group must go through a hearing process with the city's Medical Cannabis Commission on January 28, but that is expected to be perfunctory, because the

Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley, which is near the site of a proposed pot club.

club has the reputation for being well run. Club spokesman Brad Senesac said the Berkeley Patients Group wants to move because it needs more space. The old Scharffen Berger building is much larger than the club's current location on San Pablo Avenue near Grayson Street. The club also plans to grow marijuana at the new facility. Senesac also said the club's owners are "confident" that they will "be able to address the concerns" of the nearby schools and businesses.

But if the council fails to change the law, then there may be little to stop the pot club.

Berkeley City Attorney Zach Cowan indicated in an interview that there may be no way to stop the Berkeley Patients Group's plans because the 2004 ordinance only mentions public schools and because retail was not prohibited at the old Scharffen Berger building. However, Cowan also noted that because the ban on pot clubs being within 1,000 feet of public schools was made by the council — and was not included in Measure JJ — then the council has the power to change the law to include private schools, preschools, and day-care centers.

In the meantime, both the French school and Wareham Development have been talking to attorneys about the issue. Barlow indicated that Wareham Development plans to file suit unless the council changes its ordinance and blocks the club's planned move. Wareham and the French school also believe that the Berkeley Patients Group's proposal violates city zoning regulations, too. They note that zoning for the old Scharffen Berger building only allows retail as an "ancillary" activity, while the patient group apparently plans to make medical marijuana sales its primary form of business.

Barlow also noted that state law prohibits the smoking of medical cannabis within 1,000 feet of any school — public or private — and that it may be impossible for the patients group to abide by that law. Although the club will not allow pot smoking inside the building because of the city's indoor-smoking ban, it may not be able to stop clients from toking up once they leave the premises.

Berkeley Planning Director Dan Marks said that his staff has been working with the patients group to make sure that its clients won't run afoul of state law. And club spokesman Senesac noted that the patients group already has tough rules for its patrons that include a club ban for violating regulations.

Regardless, the clearest solution would be for the council to immediately change the law before the club makes its move. There are plenty of other empty buildings in Berkeley, and the council doesn't have to go as far as the Los Angeles City Council did last week when it banned pot clubs from being near churches and parks. But it makes sense to include private schools, preschools, and day-care centers. After all, the law shouldn't protect some kids over others just because their parents chose a particular school. ■

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

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Profile

Donna Rio

The fee-based financial planner, investment advisor, insurance agent, and tax preparer believes there is more than one right way to make a plan.

By Michelle Quinn

One year ago Donna Rio experienced firsthand how the global financial turmoil was playing out in people's lives. Her clients kept calling her anxious about retirement plans up in smoke and college savings in shambles. They wanted her to tell them if they should sell.

Some financial planners and brokers may have wanted to hide during those months, when uncertainty was widespread and answers were few. Friends and colleagues say Rio did mostly what she does best — listening, talking, and debating, sometimes for hours to the same client. "If you feel you can't sleep at night, you have to let me know," she said she told her clients who were thinking of pulling out of the market. "Most people who called really just wanted to talk."

For more than twenty years, Rio has paired her financial sense and experience with a sensitivity to what her clients are experiencing. Her clients include self-employed people trying to launch businesses, artists without two cents to rub together, women with inherited wealth who are unsure how to manage their money, and young and old living with serious illnesses and trying to make good financial decisions.

Rio is a certified financial planner and investment advisor, registered with Protected Investors of America, a San Francisco broker and dealer established in 1934. She also is an enrolled agent and tax preparer. She has built her business by listening to what people say they need and considering the resources they have. Her business is mostly fee-based, so she doesn't have an incentive to sell investments to clients. And indeed, she said she doesn't believe there is one right way to make a financial plan. She sees her role as partly that of an educator, helping people learn how to handle their own finances.

"If you didn't have a clue what any of it meant, she's the right person to go to," said Carol Aguada Hallberg, a business partner. "If you don't know what to do, you can say draw me a map, and she would."

Donna Rio

Chris Duffey

Yet Rio won't shy away from telling her clients when some of their habits may need to be changed. "If they are spending a lot, that becomes apparent quickly," she said.

Her services have evolved with her clientele, currently a roster of about 180 people. Artists with whom she once traded services for art are now selling their work and facing issues about how to manage money after years of not having any. Clients she once consulted about their eventual retirement are now elderly and dealing with issues involving estate planning and long-term care. In fact, so many of her clients have expressed an interest in long-term care that she and Aguada Hallberg, an enrolled agent working in her tax business, are starting a new business related to long-term care, disability, and life insurance.

Law, Accounting & Professional Services

Rio grew up in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, outside Philadelphia, and came to California to pursue a career as a systems analyst. She received her MBA from Berkeley in 1985 and worked at Motorola in the leasing department. "I thought, after a year of that, rather than using this knowledge on equipment I would use it to help people," she recalled. In 1987, she earned her financial planning certificate and enrolled agent's license and launched her financial planning and tax businesses.

She has built her client base through referrals and from giving workshops on financial issues at places such as local hospitals and to women's groups. In the 1990s, she operated a nonprofit that provided financial planning advice to people with health issues such as AIDS, cancer, and multiple sclerosis. Albany business consultant Linda Walker refers clients to Rio, especially the elderly. "I referred a woman to her who is now well over 100," Walker said. "For that woman, Donna is one of the few people in the world she trusts."

For small proprietors, from artists to consultants, Rio offers the following advice:

1. Get long-term disability insurance. "You are still here on the planet. You still need to pay bills. It's important to protect the income stream."

2. Purchase health insurance. "You need to be wise about where you put your money. This is more important than life insurance."

3. Save something, even $50 a month. "I believe everyone should be doing something systematically. Accumulating wealth has not to do with the best investment but consistent savings."

San Francisco artist and librarian Kate Connell and her husband, Oscar Melara, an artist and bus driver, go to Donna Rio for help with their taxes. "We trust her to educate us about what the parameters are," Connell said.

Rio also has built a reputation for her expertise in socially responsible investing, which is now more commonly called "sustainable investing." But she says she doesn't push it on her clients, and moves on whenever they aren't interested. For those who are, there is usually much to discuss. "There's a few things people agree on," she said. "Philip Morris, most would say no. But some people will invest in a drug company, some won't. And if one invests in mutual funds, it may be more difficult to satisfy their socially responsible parameters."

Stress is definitely a factor in Rio's profession, particularly during years like the last one. She has a Vizsla, or Hungarian pointer, named Emily whom she takes to the hills or the Piedmont parks. She plays badminton with the Golden Gate Badminton club and on Saturdays drives to Clayton to attend a fitness bootcamp started last year during the economic meltdown as a way to raise money for breast cancer. "It was a great thing to do when people were uncertain and upset." She likes to meet friends weekly at the Drunken Fish on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland.

This year, Rio says there are more tax complications than she can remember, with numerous new tax credits for buying a home or energy-saving autos and home improvement products. It's the time of year when her mind works overtime, no matter what is happening with the stock market. "I can think about tax returns at 3 a.m.," she said. ●

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Employee Breaks Are a Growth Area in the Law

Class-action lawsuits over workplace labor practices have become a rewarding subspecialty for labor law firms. And the East Bay is ground zero.

By Michelle Quinn

James Watson has worked as a security guard throughout the East Bay since 1997. The 78-year-old East Oakland resident is currently stationed at the downtown Oakland headquarters of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, working from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends and as a replacement on weekdays. But having signed an agreement with his security firm to be on duty at all times during his shifts, Watson must eat at his post. In a previous assignment, working at a wastewater facility in West Oakland, Watson kept a jar near his station so that he could urinate while on duty rather than walk several blocks to the bathroom.

Watson said he initially refused to sign the agreement, and then was taken off the work schedule by his employer, Cypress Security, a San Francisco security services firm. Company officials told him he would work again only when a job became available in a multiguard location, he said. Eventually, Watson relented and signed the agreement, and was then assigned more work. "I felt this company was really out of line, taking advantage of employees any way they see fit," Watson said.

So today he is one of three plaintiffs in *Kassem v. Cypress*, a lawsuit against his employer. The suit, filed in San Francisco in October 2008, claims that Watson and others were forced, as a condition of their employment, to sign an "on-duty meal period agreement," which requires employees to stay on duty while eating lunch.

Under state law, employees working an eight-hour shift are guaranteed two fifteen-minute paid breaks and a thirty-minute unpaid lunch break. Since the employer's payroll system would probably deduct thirty minutes for lunch, if a worker skips lunch and keeps working, an employee is working without pay during that time.

Some employers present employees with a document that says they agree to work through their meals. The potential upside for an employee like Watson is that he gets paid to eat during the state-prescribed thirty-minute meal break that is typically deducted from his time card. But the downside, some lawyers say, is that the agreement undercuts state workplace requirements set in place for the health and safety of employees. Consequently, these lawyers say, these agreements often are used in ways that violate labor law. Matthew Bainer, a lawyer with Scott Cole & Associates, the Oakland law firm representing Watson and his colleagues, said that employees are not necessarily supposed to "do it all" for their employers.

Scott Cole and Matthew Bainer of Scott Cole & Associates

Chris Duffey

Lawsuits involving agreements such as the one that Cypress Security asked Watson and his colleagues to sign have become a growth area for firms like Scott Cole & Associates. For years, labor lawyers say, legislative and court decisions chipped away at employee protections and the ability of lawsuits to become class actions. For hungry law firms, wage-and-hour cases became one of the areas in which they could still make money, an endeavor that was greatly helped by several pivotal court decisions that made it easier for employees to file and win cases. In a unanimous decision in 2005, the US Supreme Court required an employer to pay meat-packing employees for time to put on special clothing. In 2007, a California Supreme Court decision in a case involving Sav-on Drug Stores allowed wage-and-hour cases to more easily be declared class actions.

For hungry law firms, wage-and hour cases became one of the areas in which they could still make money

The East Bay in particular has become a popular venue for the filing of such lawsuits, which are known as "wage-and-hour" cases. Alameda County juries are perceived to be pro-employee, and numerous East Bay law firms have moved into this area of employment law.

From an outsider's perspective, such cases can seem nitpicky, often addressing narrow issues like employee break time or the simple task of dropping off the office mail on the way home. The amount of money per employee can seem small.

But if a court certifies the case as a class-action lawsuit, then the calculators come out. For employees in the designated class, and every violation they experience, the settlement can be as much as one hour of wage per day or more during the period of the violation. For instance, Oakland's city council voted in December to pay $1.75 million in legal fees and vacation time to settle a suit brought by police officers who said they should have been paid for time they spent putting on their uniforms.

Lawyers who represent employees in such cases say their lawsuits often force employers to change their practices. "You are dealing with an economy that is changing a lot," said Teague Patterson, a lawyer with Beeson, Tayer & Bodine, which represents unions and employees. "You have a lot of economic displacement. The place you can squeeze the balloon is wages. That's what we're seeing. Wage-and-hour cases are push back now."

Law, Accounting & Professional Services

Another view is that wage-and-hour cases are low-hanging fruit for employee law firms, and thus result in a quicker payday for labor lawyers than many other kinds of suits, say lawyers for employers. Some businesses, particularly small ones, may not know or understand the numerous rules and laws they are, and once in court, may find the claims hard to disprove, especially if their record-keeping is inadequate. The result is a nightmare for employers, said Alan Garber, the owner of the Garber Law Firm, an Oakland practice that focuses on defending businesses.

"When they get sued for even what may have been a totally innocent violation that was unbeknownst to them, or even one where the employer thought he or she was doing the employee a favor, the costs of defending these claims can be enormous," said Garber, who trains employers on devising policies regarding all aspects of employment law, including meal and rest breaks.

"Litigation over meal and rest periods is a full-blown industry," said Alex Hernaez, a lawyer with Fox Rothschild who represents Cypress but declined to otherwise address the claims made by Watson and his lawyers. "It's mind-numbing to people who are not familiar with the intricacies."

Scott Cole & Associates embodies the growth of this area in the law. The firm has seen its practice evolve from workplace discrimination to misclassification of employees as managers, a type of lawsuit known as exemption cases. "It's hard to walk through a mall and find a company that hasn't been hit by an exemption case," said Scott Cole, the company's founder and namesake.

Now Cole's firm is part of the boom in wage-and-hour cases. In the past ten years, the five-lawyer Oakland firm has filed approximately one hundred class-action wage-and-hour cases. More recently, it has focused on meal and rest breaks. In 2007 it negotiated an $87 million settlement for UPS delivery employees for meal and rest violations, and in 2009, a $15 million settlement with Securitas Security Services USA for meal and rest violations on behalf of California-based security guards.

The firm has placed ads on BART to grab the attention of employees working off the clock. The ads target one arena in which vast numbers of American employees are probably providing uncompensated services to their employers. "This little piggy stayed home and checked e-mail and didn't get paid," the ads say. "That's wrong."

Cole said the use of on-duty meal agreements cuts across industries: retail, warehouse, fast food, gas stations, parking attendants, and security guards. Mostly they are used by employers so that they do not have to hire more workers, he said. In a few instances, they may be legal, although Cole and his colleagues were unable to come up with an example of such an agreement. Driving a human liver needed for transplant between hospitals? Possibly. But such agreements are often misused, he said, and by refusing to sign some employees have experienced oppressive conditions in their workplace.

Lawyers throughout the state are waiting on a decision from the California Supreme Court in the case of *Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court*, which addresses whether employers must simply make it clear that an employee is entitled to a break or whether the employer must make sure the employee takes the break.

In the meantime, his firm has filed meal and rest break claims against nine security companies. "Where there is a problem, it tends to be a practice throughout the industry," Bainer said. "Our aim is to remedy that practice." ●

Michelle.Quinn@EastBayExpress.com

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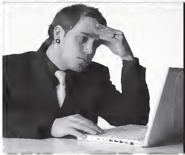
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Skills&Schmoozing

Jeff Wright with Gretchen DeVore at Bridge Artspace

Teaching Artists to Market Their Work

Bridge Artspace wants to help artists acquire some business skills

Transforming a storage facility into an art space is a long and arduous process. But **Bridge Artspace** (23 Maine Ave., Richmond) events manager Sydney Metrick says it's worth what you offer in terms of sweat equity. Bridge was actually a hip venue at its inception, made entirely of recycled materials, with gardens and an administrative office that doubles as an art gallery. Last year owners Jim and Jeff Wright (a father-and-son duo) began retrofitting their ten-year-old venue. They knocked out walls, enlarged rooms, installed electricity, put in natural lighting, and created a gallery-type atmosphere. They unveiled the new iteration with an October soiree for Richmond-based artists and curators. Now they've rolled out a **new series of classes for working artists.** Course offerings for February include "Marketing for Artists," "Creating Your Vision and Plan," and "Get Booked" (a workshop for musicians to learn how to submit their work electronically). Class prices range from $25 to $65. For a full schedule, visit BridgeArtSpace.com

— Rachel Swan

To share this story, go to: ebx.hy.gr/bridge

Classes & Workshops

Accounting & Business [illegible] for entrepreneurs covers financial management, financial accounts, basic transactions and reports, essential tasks, tips, and resources. For info, visit [illegible]. Thu., Feb. 11, 3:45-5:45 p.m. $25. Cal State East Bay's Oakland Professional Development Center, 1000 Broadway St., Oakland.

Greater Berkeley Chamber of Commerce New Member Orientation [illegible] held in the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce office boardroom. Call the chamber to RSVP. Thu., Feb. 11, 8-9 a.m. Berkeley Chamber of Commerce Office, 1834 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-7000. BerkeleyChamber.com

Berkeley City College Online Transfer Classes Enrollment now open for short-term and mid-semester online classes. Through Feb. 8. $26 per unit. Berkeley City College, 2050 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2931. Peralta.edu.

Berkeley Entrepreneurs Forum — Angel Investors: Alternative Financing? Expert panel featuring Ted Driscoll, venture partner from Claremont Creek Ventures, Allen May, founder of Life Science Angels, and Ian Sobieski, co-director of Band of Angels; Tim Hanks of Morrison & Foerster will moderate. Panelists will discuss ways for entrepreneurs to secure funding during the financial crisis. A networking hour with hors d'oeuvres and beverages will follow. Thu., Jan. 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. $20-$35. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-7939. Haas.berkeley.edu

Biotechnology classes Applications available for the biotechnology program at Peralta.edu. Through Feb. 4. $26 per unit. Berkeley City College, 2050 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2931. Peralta.edu.

Business Packaging Training StopWaste.org presents a seminar to teach businesses how to cut down on packaging waste and save money. RSVP required. Thu., Jan. 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. free. StopWaste.org Office, 1537 Webster St., Oakland. 877-STOPWASTE. StopWaste.org

Computer Skills Class covers basic applications of Windows, Mac... Feb. 1-5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ext. [illegible]. OJTTC-CC.org.

Creating Your Vision and Plan Workshop to help career-minded artists develop a business plan, led by coach Sydney Metrick. Mon., Feb. 1, 7-9 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 8, 7-9 p.m.; Mon., March 1, 7-9 p.m.; Mon., March 8, 7-9 p.m. $25. Bridge Artspace, 23 Maine Ave., Richmond. 510-233-3348. BridgeArtSpace.com

Export/Import Invesitors Workshop covers elements of exporting, including brokers, regulations, freight forwarding, international banking, marketing assistance and government finance. Invesitors: Sat., Feb. 20, 8:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $35. Fremont Chamber of Commerce, 39488 Stevenson Place, Fremont.

Free Afterschool Arts Mentorship Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park offer mentorship for middle-school students. Starting Feb. 3, Wednesdays, 3-5:30 p.m. Continues through March 31, free. Center for History and Community, 2465 Coolidge Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142. PeraltaHacienda.org.

Free Tax Assistance Trained AARP volunteers offer assistance with 2009 tax forms. Tue., Feb. 2, 12:30-4:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-238-6620. OaklandLibrary.org.

From the Heart: Love Poetry Theatre Oakland Word series workshop. Sun., Feb. 14, 2-5 p.m., free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

Fundamentals of Woodworking Two-stage class on tools and fundamentals. For students only. Jan. 30-31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. $335. The Crucible, 1260 7th St., Oakland. 510-444-0919. TheCrucible.org.

Get Booked Workshop for bands and want to get booked for gigs. Concert producers and club managers talk about how to submit work electronically. Sat., Feb. 20, 1-4 p.m. $35. Bridge Artspace, 23 Maine Ave., Richmond. 510-233-3348. BridgeArtSpace.com.

Going Public in 2010: Is the Window Opening? Thu., Feb. 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m., $20-$30. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-7939. haas.berkeley.edu.

Guitar 101 with Eric Vogler Group classes for beginning and intermediate players. Basic chords, strong sounds, and finger positions. Maximum ten students per class. Mondays, 4-5 p.m. Continues through Feb. 22. $45 per class, $65 per month. Divinity Voice Music & Arts, 3800 Maple Ave., Oakland. [illegible]. DivinityVoiceMusicArts.

Guitar Training for Musicians Instructor Eric Vogler offers guitar lessons for working musicians. Maximum two students per class. Mondays, 5:15-6:15 p.m. Continues through Feb. 22. $15 per lesson, $60 per month. Divinity Voice Music & Arts, 3800 Maple Ave., Oakland. [illegible]. DivinityVoiceMusicArts.

The Home Office of Business Success With author, entrepreneur and business coach John Assaraf. Thu., Jan. 28. 556-1095. San Ramon Valley High School Performing Arts Center, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. 925-552-5580.

Internet Marketing for Businesses: Essential Skills Two-day certification workshop on search engine optimization, led by Bay Area Search Engine Academy. Visit BayAreaSearchEngineAcademy.org for more details. Feb. 22-23, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. $895. Bishop Ranch 8, Camino Ramon & Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon.

Introduction to Neon Starting Jan. 30, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Feb. 27. $335. The Crucible, 1260 7th St., Oakland. 510-444-0919. TheCrucible.org.

Learn How to Facilitate Your Own Climate Change Action Group Training will prepare each participant to launch a four-session action group with 5-10 members. Tue., Feb. 9, 6-8:30 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 22, 6-8:30 p.m. free to members; $10 for the Low Carbon Diet workbook. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

Literature of Oakland, Oakland, & Writing Oakland Word series workshop. Starting Feb. 3, Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Continues through March 3, free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

Marketing for Artists: Preparing for Musicians Three-hour workshop tells artists how to photograph, package, deal with copyrights, and market their work. Wed., Feb. 10, 6-9 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 17, 6-9 p.m.; Wed., March 10, 6-9 p.m.

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Wed., March 17, 6-8 p.m., $30. Bridge Artspace, 23 Maine Ave., Richmond, 510-233-3348, BridgeArtSpace.com.

The Marketing Plan Two-hour workshop covers all aspects of starting and implementing a marketing plan. For info, visit EastBayScore.org. Mon., Feb. 8, 1:45-4 p.m., $25. CIC Conference Room, 1427 Broadway, Suite 201, Oakland.

Insatiable Word Series: Life Stories in Poetry and Prose Starting Feb. 4, Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Continues through March 11, free. Oakland Public Library, 125 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-3222, OaklandLibrary.org.

Insatiable Word Workshop: Intro to Writing Short Fiction Starting Feb. 5, Fridays, 4-5:30 p.m. Continues through March 5, free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland, 510-238-3400, OaklandLibrary.org.

Insatiable Word Workshop: Writing into Film Starting Feb. 6, Saturdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Continues through March 6, free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland, 510-238-3400, OaklandLibrary.org.

Opening & Operating a Restaurant SCORE East Bay workshop covers business basics, menus, pricing, purchasing, service, and marketing. Sat., Feb. 20, 4:45-6:30 p.m., $65. CIC Conference Room, 1427 Broadway, Suite 201, Oakland.

[illegible] Jazz Theory: Musicians & Singers Ten-week jazz session with Jim Grantham. Call or e-mail for exact address & to register. Starting Feb. 3, Wednesdays, 7:30-10 p.m. Continues through April 7. $295 for 10 weeks. Jim Grantham Music Studio, Lake Merritt Area, Oakland, 510-271-7904, JazzMasterWorkout.com.

Reduce Your Footprint in 2010 Workshop to help individuals, households, businesses and organizations lower their greenhouse gas emissions in 2010. For info, call the Ecology Center at 510-548-2220 ext. 240, or visit EcologyCenter.org. Thu., Feb. 25, 7 p.m., free. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-841-4824, [illegible].

Soul Song: Songwriting [illegible] [illegible] workshop. Sun., Feb. 28, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

Starting & Managing Your Small Business Full-day workshop covers business plans, legal aspects, financial aspects, [illegible], insurance, marketing, advertising, tax, employment and other topics. For info, visit EastBayScore.org. Thu., Jan. 28, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thu., Feb. 25, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., $45. San Ramon Community Center and Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon, 925-973-3200, SanRamonValleyRotary.org.

Opening & Operating Your Own Business All-day workshop covers business plans, legal aspects, financial aspects, accounting, insurance, marketing, advertising, tax, employment and other topics. Info, at EastBayScore.org. Thu., Feb. 11, 8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m., $45 ($65 with business plan software). Cal State East Bay's Oakland Professional Development Center, 1000 Broadway St., Oakland.

Sustainability Strategies for All Stakeholders: Business, Community, and Freedom Interactive workshop led by [illegible] and Sarah Isabel [illegible] from [illegible] Law Group. [illegible] wines from [illegible], plus organic beer and wine. Tue., Feb. 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m., $10-$15. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Take Charge of Your Work: Career Development Part of the Oakland Word workshop series. Starting Feb. 6, Saturdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Continues through March 6, free. Oakland Public Library, César Chávez Branch, 3301 E. 12th St., Oakland, 510-535-5620, OaklandLibrary.org.

Taking Your Show on the Road — Selling Your Art & Craft Comprehensive workshop led by Caren [illegible]. Sat., Jan. 30, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 13, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., March 6, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., $60. Bridge Artspace, 23 Maine Ave., Richmond, 510-233-3348, BridgeArtSpace.com.

[illegible] Chamber of Short Story [illegible] [illegible] Word workshop. Starting Feb. 6, Saturdays, 2:15-3:45 p.m. Continues through March 6, free. Oakland Public Library, César Chávez Branch, 3301 E. 12th St., Oakland, 510-535-5620, OaklandLibrary.org.

West Berkeley Library Design Update Community workshop invited to a presentation by the design team [illegible], of the [illegible] meeting. Sat., Feb. 6, noon, free. [illegible] Public Library, West Branch, 1125 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-8870.

Writing and Speaking Word: History and Spoken Word Oakland Word workshop. Starting Feb. 6, Saturdays, 2:30-5 p.m. Continues through March 6, free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

Launches & Open Houses

Black Wall Street: Coalition of Businesses Exhibit Black history week exhibition includes forty events and three Stations in twenty one locations, including Allen Temple Family Life Center, East Oakland Youth Development Center, [illegible] Center, [illegible] Library, [illegible], Hayward [illegible] Academy, [illegible] and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Feb. 1-28, Black Wall Street, [illegible], Oakland, BlackWallStreet.org.

B&N Institute Office Opening To RSVP call 510-208-4579 or e-mail [illegible]. Thu., Jan. 28, 5-7:30 p.m., Info. B&N Institute Office, 382 13th Street, Oakland.

Networking

Antiques Appraisal Faire Event sponsored by the Albany Rotary Club and Albany Chamber of Commerce. Have antique/collectible items evaluated by a professional appraiser for $20. [illegible] Live music and refreshments provided. For info, visit AlbanyChamber.org. Sat., Feb. 27, 2-6 p.m., Albany Middle School, 1259 Brighton Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible].

Berkeley Coalition of [illegible] Crab Feed Thu., Feb. 4, 6-8 p.m., $40, $300 for a table of 8. [illegible] Restaurant, [illegible], 510-843-2130, [illegible].

Berkeley Chamber of Commerce Evening Mixer Thu., Jan. 28, 5:30-7 p.m., free. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley, 510-559-7300, GoldenGateFields.com.

Berkeley Coalition of [illegible] Networking [illegible] Visit BerkeleyChamber.com for more info. Wed., Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m., $20-$30. Rose Garden Inn, 2740 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-2145, RoseGardenInn.com.

Crab Feed Benefiting [illegible] [illegible] international crab feed and silent auction. Call 925-686-1480 or e-mail [illegible] for more info. Sat., Feb. 20, 6 p.m., $40. [illegible] Athenian Club, 4700 [illegible], Lafayette.

East Bay Workshop: [illegible] Creek [illegible] Development Opportunities Urban Land Institute event with Walnut Creek Mayor [illegible]. Register at ULISF.org. Tue., Feb. 16, 12-1:30 p.m. Walnut Creek City Hall, 1666 N. Main Street, Third Floor Conference Room, Walnut Creek.

Livermore Valley Chamber [illegible] Installation [illegible] Call 925-373-8795 to RSVP. Mon., Feb. 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m., $75-$90. Sapphire Restaurant & Lounge, 2300 First St., Livermore.

Lunar New Year Parade [illegible] Avenue Association presents its [illegible] annual Lunar New Year Parade, followed by performances inside the Albany Theater. Sat., Feb. 6, 11 a.m., free. Landmark Albany Twin, 1115 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-464-5980, [illegible]/AlbanyTwin.htm.

Professional Practice Orientation [illegible] Register at ChamberOrganizer.com. Tue., Feb. 2, 6-9 a.m. Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, 1501 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek, 925-934-2007.

Solano Avenue Association Monthly [illegible] Hour For info visit AlbanyChamber.org. Wed., Feb. 3, 5-7 p.m., Cugini's, 1556 Solano Ave., Albany.

[illegible] CALPAC [illegible] the publisher of Globe Newspaper Group, and was recently [illegible] president of the West Coast Black [illegible]. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres provided. Call 510-839-4444 to RSVP. Wed., Feb. 3, 6-8 p.m., free. [illegible] of Chicken & Waffles, 444 [illegible], Oakland.

510-[illegible] [illegible].

Open Call

ACCI Gallery Seeks New Artists The gallery is looking for innovative high-quality contemporary fine art and crafts. Please submit 5-15 slides of your work, an accompanying list of the works with title, medium, and retail price, a résumé, bio, an artist statement and a SASE. Visit ACCIGallery.com/join_call.htm for more info. Daily. ACCI Gallery, 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2527, ACCIGallery.com.

Community Deadline: Metropolitan Transportation Commission Policy Advisors The Metropolitan Transportation Commission is recruiting for 27 individuals to become members of its new [illegible] Policy Advisory Council. Advisors serve a two-year term and receive a stipend. Visit MTC.CA.gov/get_involved/advisory for forms. Jan. 21-Feb. 1, free. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices, 101 8th St., Oakland, 510-464-7773.

Application/Nomination Deadline: [illegible] [illegible] to applicants for the Bureau of State Audits' [illegible]. [illegible] should e-mail [illegible] at [illegible].org. Fri., Feb. 12. Greenlining Institute, 1918 University Ave., 2nd Fl., Berkeley, 510-926-4018.

Application/Nomination Deadline: [illegible] Valley Water Conservation [illegible] For South Bay businesses that [illegible] and have helped promote health and economic vitality by addressing water issues. Visit [illegible] for more info. Fri., Feb. 26.

Associate Program Application Deadline: The Greenlining Institute [illegible]-month intensive training for aspiring leaders. Associates learn to manage research and advocacy projects under the guidance of staff members. [illegible] Culminates with a symposium at which each associate presents a written and oral report. Call 510-926-4008 or e-mail [illegible]@greenlining.org. Fri., Feb. 12. Greenlining Institute, 1918 University Ave., 2nd Fl., Berkeley, 510-926-4018.

Bay Area Labor [illegible] Oakland by Chorus The chorus is looking for new members to sing work songs in a variety of styles, from folk ballads to gospel to South African anthems to [illegible] Chorus is [illegible] regardless of past experience. Class credit in Labor Studies [illegible]. Register at the first rehearsal or by phone at 510-208-7228. Every other Saturday, 12:30-4 p.m. Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-834-5740, 510-464-3100, Laney.peralta.edu.

Call for Laney College [illegible] the Laney College [illegible] [illegible] include [illegible] of Laney games and [illegible] networking opportunities. To register, call [illegible] at 510-379-6300 or e-mail [illegible]@peralta.edu. Daily, free. Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-834-5740, 510-464-3100, Laney.peralta.edu.

Competition Deadline: [illegible] Starting Blocks for Sustainable Design Multi-disciplinary urban design competition sponsored by the [illegible] Chapter of the Institute [illegible] Society of [illegible] (IDSA), the American Institute of Graphic Artists (AIGA) and the Interaction Design [illegible] (IxDA). For details, visit [illegible].org. Jan. 21-31.

Deadline: Contra Costa [illegible] Community [illegible] Competition Grant Program The Watershed Project seeks to implement plans to protect local watersheds in unincorporated Contra Costa County. Stewardship grants are in the range of $5,000-$20,000 per year. For info, visit TheWatershedProject.org. Jan. 27-Feb. 4. The Watershed Project, 1327 S. 46th St., Richmond, 510-231-5655, TheWatershedProject.org.

Fellowship Program Application Deadline: Year-long training program for aspiring leaders who have completed, at minimum, an undergraduate degree. Fellows will alternately get to manage programs and launch [illegible]. Call 510-926-4007 or e-mail [illegible]@greenlining.org for more info. Fri., Feb. 12. Greenlining Institute, 1918 University Ave., 2nd Fl., Berkeley, 510-926-4018.

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*Owner-occupied buildings only

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Phat Matt's BBQ
[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-8[illegible]-[illegible]204. Tender, juicy, supple flesh is the prime attraction of this cogent rational rib joint. Just order the Shaffer-MacArthur [illegible]. Texas-style beef brisket, North Carolina pulled pork, and a quarter-chicken doused in house-made barbecue sauce are almost creamy in texture, while the brick-red hot links snap, crackle, and spice up your insides. The chewy tri-tip, however, is easily avoidable. Side dishes are mostly unimpressive (exception: the wonderfully tangy potato salad) but don't skip the praline-like pecan pie or the blissful, buttery peach cobbler. $$

Green Papaya
2016 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1636. Berkeley's first vegetarian Thai restaurant is owned by the same family that owns TukTuk and Your Place. Occupying the space that formerly housed Sushi A'Bout, it sports a fresh new design that reflects its allegiance to the plant realm. It's one of those rare places in which you keep on ordering and keep on liking everything you try. The fried taro appetizer is a revelation, a creamy-starchy nugget-slab whose crisp, golden skin suggests a fried-chicken-potato-churro doughnut. Other standouts include the chicken pot pies, pineapple-gluten curry, and peanut-sauce tofu. Noodle dishes are a bit sparse, but maybe that's because most of the other dishes — especially the curries, which range from mild to three-star spicy — are so gigantic. $

I Squared
5401 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-4400. Spare, sleek Rockridge storefront serves a brief menu of salads, kabobs, pastas, and other signature dishes out of the Iranian and Italian playbooks, all of them fresh, satisfying, and absolutely tasty. A few more Persian specialties would be welcome, but the delectable lamb and [illegible] wraps will do in a pinch. Get the tiramisu parfait for dessert. Impressive beer list. $$

eVe
1960 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-868-0735. Chefs/co-owners Christopher and Veronica Laramie met as students at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. They designed this little treasure box's sleek, black white-and-lime interior down to the Chalonnaise pottery from Veronica's native Peru. And they created a constantly changing menu on which each dish costs $11. The avant-garde aesthetic, throbbing trance music, and carefully chosen wine list, plus the fact that the chefs appear tableside to explain each dish, renders eVe not just a restaurant but a kind of theater/party/potlatch, in which it's all about the flavor combinations. A celery-root soup, for example, bears subtly [illegible], smoky [illegible] nuggets of Spanish chorizo, the reticent chew of chestnuts and cranberries, and an aroma imparted by bay-leaf-tea foam. Even if you love what you've ordered, you might never have it here again, as the Laramies change their menu every few days. $$

Meritage at the Claremont
41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8510. Serving what executive chef Josh Thomsen calls "seasonal farm-to-table cuisine" at the Claremont Hotel Club & Spa, Meritage commands one of the East Bay's most historic and highly prized views. Meritage's dinner menus feature locally sourced dishes paired with wines in at least six different categories. But Meritage's most popular meal is its glorious Sunday champagne brunch. A guilty pleasure of buffets is that they don't just let you eat your fill. They let you eat together foods that society dictates should never meet. At cheap buffets, this means chow mein and chili mac. At Meritage, it means Israeli couscous and Chinese steamed water-chestnut dumplings and prime rib. $$$

Marzano on College
5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4[illegible]. A host of satisfying Southern Italian comfort food stars at this casual and inexpensive yet handsomely appointed Rockridge trattoria. Roasted meatballs with chard are spicy and hearty; chicory salad is bright with pear, pomegranate, and blue cheese; the seafood stew is the very definition of abundance. Thin-crusted Neapolitan pizzas are the house specialty (try the pumpkin-fontina-pancetta late varietal). Desserts include the Straus Organic soft serve with your choice of toppings (rosemary honey, balsamic reduction, and sea salt among them). Plus other imaginative house cocktails, impressive all-Italian wine list. $$$

Lovely Sweets and Snacks 4[illegible] Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $
Salang Pass 37462 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-9200. (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

B Street Cafe 1213 B St., Hayward, 510-582-2558. (French) $$
[illegible] [illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-276-[illegible]. (Italian) $-$$
Buffalo Bill's Brewery 1082 B St., Hayward, 510-886-9823. (American/Brewpub) $
Casa Hayward 917 A St., Hayward, 510-247-8170. (Latin) $$
Everett & Jones Barbeque 296 A Street, Hayward, 510-581-3222 (Barbecue) $$
Kim Yong Korean Bar-B-Q Restaurant 22385 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-886-7762 (Barbecue/Korean) $$
The Hayward Ranch 22877 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-537-5522. (American/Barbecue/Steak House) $-$$
Hong Kong BBQ Restaurant 20618 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $
L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 27318 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-783-8680 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $
La Piñata 934 Rose St., Hayward, 510-538-9967 (Mexican) $$
[illegible] [illegible] St., San Leandro, 510-352-[illegible] (Mexican) $$
[illegible] 525 B St., Hayward, 510-538-[illegible] (American/Diner) $
Pot Pie Paradise 2522 Arden Rd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (American) $
[illegible] Sushi 142 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-352-3748 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
Val's Burgers 2115 Kelly St., Hayward, 510-889-8257 (American/Diner) $

LAMORINDA

[illegible] Cafe 2 Theatre Sq., Suite 105, Orinda, 925-254-5290 (Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern) $

R&C

(Barbecue/Deli) $
Krung Thep 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-[illegible]. (Southeast Asian/Thai Fusion) $-$$
[illegible] 6115 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-8879 (Steak House) $$-$$$
[illegible] Restaurant Delights 1372

Sycamore Ave., Suite F, Hercules, 510-245-1100 (Filipino) $
Ristorante San Remo [illegible], Pinole, 510-223-5820. (Italian) $$
Tacos Las Palmas Parking lot of 850 23rd St., Richmond (Mexican) $
El Tapatio [illegible] 23rd St., Richmond, 510-215-[illegible] (Mexican) $
Taqueria La Bonita 12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2288. (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $
El Tucanazo 14021 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, 510-215-7880. (Central American/Salvadoran) $
[illegible] Seafood Restaurant 11030 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-[illegible] (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Cafe Ophelia 42[illegible] [illegible] Springs Blvd. [illegible]

Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $$-$$$
[illegible] [illegible] Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-796-3400. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$
[illegible] Tofu [illegible] Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $
[illegible] 33330 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, 510-471-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
De Afghanan Kabob House 37405 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-9599 (Afghan/Middle Eastern) $-$$
[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $
[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$
[illegible] 43791 [illegible] Rd., Fremont, 510-440-[illegible] (Belgian/Barbecue) $
L&L Hawaiian Barbecue [illegible] Decoto Rd., Union City, (510) 324-8836 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

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[illegible] Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, 925-283-1133. (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casa Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda 925-254-2981 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Chow Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette 925-962-2469 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

El Jarro [illegible] Cafe 3563 Mount Diablo Blvd. Lafayette 925-283-0808 (Mexican) $-$$

La Finestra Ristorante 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 108 Lafayette 925-284-8282 (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] Restaurant 1 Rheem Way, Moraga 925-253-9832 (Chinese) $

Metro Lafayette 3524 Mount Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, 925-284-4422 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$

Pizza Antica 3600 Mount Diablo Blvd Lafayette 925-299-0500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

Ristorante Amoroma 360 Park St. Moraga 925-377-7662 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 3538 Plaza Way, Lafayette 925-284-1280 (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ.

B 499 9th St. Oakland, 510-251-8770 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 573 14th St. Oakland, 510-250-2750 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/[illegible]) $

La Borinqueña Mexicatessen 582 Seventh St. Oakland 510-444-6964 (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] of India 848 Clay St., Oakland 510-835-7684 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cam Huong Deli 920 Webster St. Oakland 510-444-8800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Chef Lau's 301 8th St. Oakland 510-835-3255 (Chinese Seafood) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway Oakland 510-663-2350 (Barbecue) $$

La Furia Chalaca 310 Broadway, Oakland 510-451-4206 (Peruvian/South American) $$$

[illegible] Restaurant 711 Webster St. Oakland, 510-832-7663 (Chinese Seafood) $-$$

Gum Kuo 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-268-1288 (Chinese) $

[illegible] 351 15th St. Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

Jade Villa 800 Broadway, Oakland, 510-839-1688 (Chinese) $-$$

Legendary Palace 708 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-663-9188 (Chinese) $-$$

Levende East 827 Washington St., Oakland, 510-835-5585 (California Cuisine) $$$

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677 (Belgian/California Cuisine/French/Tapas) $$-$$$

[illegible] 2442 Webster St., Oakland 510-238-1100 (American/Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

[illegible] 8060 [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-836-2516 (Seafood) $$$

[illegible] 725 Webster St., Oakland, 510-835-8815 (Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 568 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-286-8680 (Chinese) $$$$

Shan Dong 328 10th St. #101, Oakland, 510-839-2299 (Chinese) $-$$

Shanghai Restaurant 930 Webster St., Oakland 510-465-6878 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 2501 [illegible], Oakland, 510-808-4305 (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Soizic 300 Broadway, Oakland, 510-251-8100 (California Cuisine) $$$

Sun Hing Meat Market 380 8th St., Oakland 510-835-1513 (Chinese) $

Tamarindo Antojeria Mexicana 468 8th St. Oakland, 510-444-1944 (Mexican/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Tay Ho 344 12th St. Oakland, 510-836-8388 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 459 14th St., Suite 17 Oakland, 510-625-1061 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Vo's Restaurant 59 [illegible] Ave. Oakland, 510-465-4500 (Vietnamese) $$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200 (Japanese/Sushi/Bars/Music Venues) $$$

Yung Sun Restaurant 888 [illegible] St., Oakland 510-839-2100 (Chinese) $

OAKLAND-EAST

[illegible] 1509 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-6800. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] Restaurant 782 International Blvd. Oakland 510-444-2580 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] Restaurant 3731 International Blvd. Oakland, 510-534-4750. (Mexican) $

La [illegible] 3870 International Blvd. Oakland 510-533-5590 (Mexican) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 2676 [illegible] Ave. Oakland 510-533-0900 (Barbecue) $$

El Huarache Azteca 3842 International Blvd. Oakland 510-533-2395 (Mexican) $

La Estrellita Cafe 446 East 12th St., Oakland, 510-465-7188 (Mexican/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

[illegible] 831 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-465-9336 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] Village 6217 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland 510-430-8771 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Otaez Mexicatessen 3872 International Blvd. Oakland 510-536-9080 (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] 3913 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-8882 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

Taqueria [illegible] 3659 [illegible] Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-4390 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Sinaloa 2138 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-535-1206 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Zamorano 4345 International Blvd. Oakland 510-261-6125 (Mexican) $

[illegible] 3... Ave., Oakland, 510-532-9200 (Hawaiian) $$

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers' Market, Oakland, (415) 512-8800 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave Oakland 510-655-7180 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bay Wolf Cafe and Restaurant 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-655-6004 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-336-1088 (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

César Piedmont 4039 Piedmont Ave Oakland 510-883-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Piedmont Ave Oakland, 510-655-8138 (Spanish) $$

[illegible] 3308 Grand Ave Oakland, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

Dopo 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 3868 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-845-1112 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Piedmont Ave Oakland 510-547-3444 (French) $-$$

Holy Land 677 Rand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535 (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $

Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave Oakland, 510-444-7658 (Korean) $$

Lo Coco's Restaurant 4210 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-652-6222 (Italian/Pizza) $$

Mezze 3407 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-2500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 3900 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-658-8854 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

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Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland 510-663-2985 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

Zza's Oakland 552 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-839-9124 (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave. Oakland 510-655-6469 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave. Oakland 510-601-0444 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cactus Taqueria 5642 College Ave., Oakland 510-658-6180 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 5484 College Ave Oakland, 510-653-5484 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/French) $$-$$$

Cuisine of India 5411 College Ave. Oakland 510-658-3461 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Garibaldi's 5356 College Ave. Oakland, 510-595-4000 (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Hiro's [illegible] and Grill 5325 College Ave #2 Oakland, 510-985-7308 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] Squared 5453 College Ave. Oakland 510-658-4400 (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$$

Khana Peena 5316 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2300 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] 3211 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

[illegible] 5... College Ave. Oakland, 510-655-3200 (Southeast Asian/Thai) $$

[illegible] 6095 Claremont Ave 510-595-8908 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

[illegible] 5422 College Ave Oakland, 510-654-1953 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

[illegible] Oakland, Eatery 5403 College Ave Oakland, 510-655-0880 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Top Dog 5100 Broadway, Oakland, 510-601-1187 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uzen 5415 College Ave. Oakland, 510-654-7753 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave Oakland 510-655-6385 (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Temescal Farmers Market, Oakland (415) 512-8800 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-985-1213 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

[illegible] 4427 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-601-7999 (African/[illegible]/Ethiopian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Korean) $

Dan Sung Sa 4315 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-655-5927 (Korean) $$

[illegible] 3102 Telegraph Ave Oakland 510-658-2988 (Korean) $$

[illegible] Sushi 5390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-594-0661 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue 4390 Telegraph Ave Oakland 510-652-6007 (Korean) $$

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 4799 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-653-5350 (Pizza/Art Galleries) $

Mama's Royal Cafe 4012 Broadway, Oakland, 510-547-7600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $

[illegible] 4001 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-595-5318 (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] 4315 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-653-5300 (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] 5611 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-597-9995 (Korean) $

[illegible] Pie & Poppy's Authentic [illegible] 5319 Martin Luther King [illegible] Way, Oakland 510-547-8763 (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

[illegible] 4305 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-653-8001 (Lebanese/Moroccan/

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TRI-VALLEY

Blue Agave Club 625 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-417-1224. (Mexican) $$$

Bridges 44 Church St., Danville. 925-820-7200. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

Cafe Main and Dominique's Kaiser 210 Rose Ave., Pleasanton. 925-462-0330. (French) $$$-$$$$

Forbes Mill Steakhouse 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. West, Danville. 925-552-0505. (Steak House) $$$$

Himalaya Grill 1064 Market Pl., San Ramon. 925-830-1144. (Nepalese) $

Kinder's Meats Deli BBQ 4825 Hopyard Rd., Suite F2, Pleasanton. 925-461-3333. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Meats Deli 111 Town & Country Dr., Suite G, Danville. 925-552-6320. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Masala Indian Cuisine 490 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. 925-362-4900. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

The Peasant & the Pear 267 Hartz Ave., Danville. 925-820-6611. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Sakura 3151 Crow Canyon Pl. #C, San Ramon. 925-277-1013. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$

Sergio's Trattoria 500 Bollinger Canyon Way, San Ramon. 925-380-1050. (Italian) $$-$$$

Kaiser 2138 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. 925-820-5560. (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$

Taqueria El Balazo 250 Market Pl., San Ramon. 925-378-0500. (Mexican) $

Kaiser Tai's at the Vineyard 80 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. 925-449-7000. (Chinese) $$-$$$

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2450. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

Xanten Kaiser 145 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. 925-855-9001. (California Cuisine/Eastern European) $$

Wasabi 3490 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. 925-964-1818. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Berkeley's Chicago Pizza 2150 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon. 925-244-1222. (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

Babushka Russian Deli & Restaurant 1475 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-256-0778. (Eastern European) $$

Mag Crosby's 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek. 925-938-3444. (American/Steak House) $$$$

Le Kaiser 1606 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-407-8000. (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Market of India 1358 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-758-7084. (Indian/Pakistani, Organic, Sustainable) $-$$

Jamba 1518 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-?-4668. (Chinese) $-$$

Mixed 1456 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek. 925-932-4585. (California Cuisine/Cuban/Nuevo Latino) $$

Kayoh 1417 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-957-9888. (Vietnamese) $$

Kinder's Meats Kaiser 1831 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-952-9368. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Mangiare's Il Mangia Bene 1238 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek. 925-939-2426. (Italian/Italian) $

Oi-Q Bene 1521 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-287-8168. (Chinese) $$

The Original Hick'ry Pit 1488 South Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-938-7490. (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$

Prima 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7780. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

Walnut Creek Ristorante & Pizzeria 2990 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-947-6105. (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

The's Thai Kaiser 1829 Kaiser Kaiser Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-932-8880. (Chinese) $$-$$$

Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-979-0100. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Walnut Creek Yacht Club 1555 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek. 925-944-3924. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Charles Chocolates Artisan Tour Opportunity to watch chocolatiers in production, followed by tastings. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m., free. Charles Chocolates Factory Store and Chocolate Bar, 6529 Hollis St., Emeryville. 800-6?-?-?2. CharlesChocolates.com.

Flight Night Featuring winemaker Ross Stark of Page Mill Winery, a family-owned business noted for producing limited quantities of high-quality wines. Call 925-456-2450 to make reservations. Last Thursday of every month, 5-7 p.m., $12-$15. Wente Vineyards Restaurant, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2450. WenteVineyards.com.

Preserving the Seasons with June Taylor: Marmalades June Taylor teaches a class on fruit preservation and marmalade production. For info, visit JuneTaylorJams.com. Sun., Jan. 31, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., $195. Still Room, 2207 4th St., Berkeley. 510-548-2236. JuneTaylorJams.com.

Winter Kaiser Festival The Brewing Festival features naturally seasonal brews from more than 30 world class breweries, with hot foods and live music. For info, visit BrewingNetwork.com. Sat., Jan. 30, 1-6 p.m. Linden Street Brewery, 95 Linden St., Oakland.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. For info, visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.) & Webster St., Alameda.

Bayfair Farmers' Market Fresh fruits and vegetables by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 800-747-0000. ShopBayfair.com.

Concord Farmers' Market With farmers selling locally-grown seasonal fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord. 925-878-3854.

Fremont Certified Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, fresh special and specialty food items. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bonde St. at Prospect St., Fremont.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Farmers Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse, limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m., 510-548-4751. EcologyCenter.org. Vendors, Verbena Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5050. CityofBerkeley.info/recreation/

Irvington Farmers' Market With vendors selling California-grown fruits and vegetables in season. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bay St. at Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh California grown fruits and vegetables. Located in the courtyard near the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally-grown California produce at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Martinez Farmers' Market With locally-grown seasonal fruits and vegetables. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Permanente Martinez Medical Offices, 200 Muir Rd., Martinez.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market With fresh fruits, nuts, greens, vegetables, and flowers. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Medical Center, Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market With vendors selling seasonal produce on the cafeteria patio. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a number of fresh flowers, organic produce, with nuts and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, breads, and seasonal specialty. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel Market Farmers' Market The market includes certified organic farmers from J&P Organic Farm based out of Salinas, CA and a youth-led prepared food booth called the People Lawn Cafe. For more info, vendors can contact info@... or call 543-800-4883. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel Market Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North Shattuck Farmers' Market Breads, specialty foods, all-organic farmers, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Phoenix Fremont Market With local artisans and vendors selling fresh California-grown produce. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Fremont Ave. at Pearl St., Fremont.

Pleasanton Farmers' Market With seasonal fruit and vegetables, plus Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosting cat and dog adoptions. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Pleasanton Farmers' Market, West Angela St., Pleasanton.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-581-6710.

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, farmed Market and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Berkeley Tuesday Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Union City Farmers' Market With farmers selling fresh seasonal produce and seafood, plus a breakfast court. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Old Alvarado/Union Plaza Park, Smith & Watkins St., Union City.

PICK

People's Grocery Brunch

A nonprofit devoted to facilitating food justice by changing the way food is viewed, acquired, and distributed in West Oakland, **People's Grocery** hosts a brunch on Saturday, Jan. 30 in UC Berkeley's **Pauley Ballroom.** The food will be made with organic ingredients from its own farm and gardens. Speakers include staff, board members, and community members who have benefited from People's Grocery's efforts. 11:30 a.m., free. RSVP to Nisha@PeoplesGrocery.org. PeoplesGrocery.org. *— Anneli Rufus*

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STORMY WEATHER

A tempest in a fleshpot (*Fish Tank*) and a maelstrom of indecision (*Storm*)

By Kelly Vance

Mia (Katie Jarvis) gets loose in *Fish Tank*.

January, like August, is usually a serendipitous month for moviegoers who get their kicks poking around neighborhood movie houses looking for the odd and overlooked little orphans that always seem to wash ashore at the end of the big money season. These are the films that rush in to plug the holes in plex programming or better yet, never play the plexes at all. The ones you'll be able to keep in your own private stash. Films like *Fish Tank* and *Storm*.

Mia Williams (played by Katie Jarvis), the fifteen-year-old lead character of *Fish Tank*, doesn't appear to have a friend in the world. Slim and wiry, with bruised but delicate features, dressed in cheap athletic gear with her dark hair hastily cropped, Mia gives the appearance of a young woman who would "clean up" just fine — but she has no intention of changing her grooming habits or doing any other favors to those around her. She's glamorous as only a poor girl can be, a rose blooming on a manure pile.

Skittering around the depressing high-rise council flats near Tilbury in the county of Essex, east of London, where she lives with her similarly vexed mother Joanne (Kierston Wareing) and younger sister Tyler (Rebecca Griffiths) — a place of hip-hop and pit bulls and ale at any hour of the day — Mia clashes noisily with everyone she meets, from break-dancing teenagers to a family of young guys who keep a horse tethered outside their trailer. She's the odd girl out, the un-Precious.

Mia's latter-day kitchen-sink sphere of existence is the stuff of countless dramas about the foibles of the English lower classes, but writer-director Andrea Arnold obviously sees new and undiscovered narratives where so many have trod before. Former TV actor Arnold and her nonprofessional female lead take what might have been a festival of self-loathing and neglect and steer it into rarer, more unfamiliar turf using the power of personality.

Bored and contemptuous of her surroundings, Mia never ventures far from home until she spots a "Female Dancer Wanted" flier. Grim as the prospects may be — essentially it's a club looking for strippers — the prospective gig appeals to her talent for movement. At last, something she can aspire to. The alternative is sitting in front of the TV for hours like smart-mouthed little Tyler, or mellowing into a slack slut like her mother, awash in alcohol and cigarettes. Mia is accustomed to nonstop sexual threats from every angle, but her mom's new boyfriend, Connor (Michael Fassbender), is something new. Lean and muscular, like a combo of Jeremy Irons and a young Ryan O'Neal, the affable security guard openly flirts with Mia. It's only a matter of time until they tumble.

But ultimately there's Mia's *self-awareness* and attitude to deal with, keyed to Bobby Womack's version of "California Dreamin'." Absolutely no fakey uplift in Mia's coming of age. The through-stories for Mia, Tyler, their mother, and Connor probably don't amount to a hill of beans, not even when the "second chance" destination of Cardiff, Wales, is factored in. But there's always hope, at least as long as Mia keeps her moves and her looks.

In the starring role, first-timer Jarvis could not be improved upon — she's the ideal synthesis of adolescent desire and contempt. Irish-bred, German-native actor Fassbender turns in a crafty piece of work as Connor, the marauding lover. We're never quite sure what's going through his mind, other than that he's dick-deep in females most of the time. Reverse the genders of that equation for Mia's frowsy mom Joanne — as played by 34-year-old English actor Wareing, she's a study in arrested development, the perpetual hot teenybopper. The one character who appears to have an absolutely clear view of the state of things is li'l sis Tyler, played by another debutante, young Ms. Griffiths. Check back with her in five or six years for *Fish Tank II: The Squeequel*.

Fish Tank

Written and directed by Andrea Arnold. With Katie Jarvis, Michael Fassbender and Kierston Wareing. Opens Friday

Storm

Directed by Hans-Christian Schmid. With Kerry Fox and Anamaria

For further proof that Europeans experience life differently than Americans, we submit Hans-Christian Schmid's *Storm*. In less perceptive hands, the story of a prosecutor from the International Criminal Tribunal in the Hague (played by New Zealand actor Kerry Fox, from *An Angel at My Table*) doggedly hunting down a key witness (Anamaria Marinca) to a war crime committed in the Bosnian civil war in the 1990s would involve squads of goonish hit men, a car chase or two, and a hail of bullets.

But German director Schmid, who wrote the screenplay with Bernd Lange, opts for a chillier, less demonstrative, ultimately more penetrating scenario. A former general in the Serbian rebel forces has been arrested in Spain and accused of deporting, raping, and killing Bosnian Muslims in Sarajevo during the war. The main eyewitness proves unreliable, so the UN prosecutor in charge of the investigation, Hannah Maynard (Fox), goes to the witness' sister, Mira Arendt (Marinca), now living in Germany with her German husband and child. Hannah wants Mira to testify, but Mira is terrified, after all these years, that the Serbs are still watching her. The delays cause the prosecutor's competency to be called into question.

Hannah and Mira's moral dilemma mushrooms into multiple unsavory ironies. The locals back in Sarajevo don't want Westerners mucking in, asking questions, digging up the past, starting official investigations. A Srpska Republic official, seeking to placate Hannah, admits: "There are powers in our country that are not under our control." Meanwhile, Hannah's UN bosses are pushing for speedy resolution to all cases, citing budget.

The context is more interesting than the mechanism of the case. No one really trusts the UN to be able to control anything — it just doesn't have the power. And yet, ultimately, the UN and the EU can impose sanctions on "criminal governments." Bosnian Serbs hold all sorts of dreadful people as heroes, but the Serbs are at a disadvantage. If they want to be admitted into the EU club, they must heel to a Western sense of justice. To Hannah's superior (English actor Stephen Dillane), the Bosnian war crimes are old business that needs to be concluded quickly.

Is Hannah's conscience being sold out by the UN with its "catch-up" sense of justice? And what about Mira, who agrees to testify but runs up against the UN's lack of will? Nothing is easy, cut and dried, the ironically titled *Storm* tells us. As in *Fish Tank*, no white knight rides in to save the day. And life must go on. ◆

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/fishtank

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrew Grossvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Edge of Darkness Police thriller about a detective (Mel Gibson) investigating the death of his daughter. Directed by Martin Campbell (R, 117 min.) ATC, BC, BP, CWC, CO, CEPH, CH, DJC, EM, EH, CA, WWS

Fish Tank Writer-director Andrea Arnold's worthwhile [illegible] "kitchen sink" character study zeroes in on Mia (played by non-actor Katie Jarvis), a fifteen-year-old would-be dancer looking for love where there is none, amid the shabbiness of a process housing project in London's Essex suburbs. [illegible] She's the proverbial rose on a manure pile. She and her mom, and young Ms. Jarvis, a [illegible] high-school dropout, [illegible] Filmmaker Arnold, a former British TV [illegible], saved her no-name cast from what might have been a session of self-loathing, [illegible] the power of personality. With cunning Michael Fassbender as mom's lusty boyfriend (123 min.) S.

Storm (Sturm) Hannah Maynard (Kerry Fox), the UN war crimes prosecutor trying to convict a Bosnian Serb general on charges of genocide left over from the 1990s civil war in Sarajevo, runs into [illegible] and theoretical [illegible] as well as procedural ones in this sly, understated thriller by director Hans-Christian Schmid. The chief witness (Anamaria Marinca) [illegible] and meanwhile Hannah's boss in The Hague (Stephen Dillane) just wants to get the whole process over with as soon as possible. Schmid and screenwriter Bernd Lange seem to be making a point about the [illegible] underlying the European Union. Nice work by New Zealand actor Fox (An Angel at My Table) and Romania's Marinca (110 min.) S.

When in Rome Comedy about a New Yorker (Kristen Bell) who finds love in Rome after stealing coins from a [illegible]. Directed by Mark Steven Johnson. ATC, BC, BP, CWC, CE, CEPH, CH, CVC, CH, EH, S.

ONGOING

2012 Roland Emmerich's plot de résistance is [illegible] a dizzying terrain, collapsing continents, volcanoes, tidal waves, mega-fireballs, and screaming people — with John Cusack as a writer who would his little book to the Himalayas while the world [illegible] around them. The [illegible] are roaring for [illegible] (out of the two-and-a-half-hour running time), and they keep coming, but the story boils down to the usual Emmerich [illegible] of The Day After Tomorrow, a little [illegible] them, good guys, bad guys. Backing up Amanda Peet as his ex, [illegible] Harrelson as an environmentalist, Danny Glover as President of the US. [illegible]

Showtimes Online

More showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. AL = Albany, ATC = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex, BC = [illegible] Concord, BH = Blackhawk, [illegible], BS = Bay Street, CA = California, CAPH = CinéArts Pleasant Hill, [illegible] Century Dublin, CCC = Contra Costa Cinemas, CEPH = Century Pleasant Hill, CH = Century Hilltop, CHY = Century Hayward, [illegible] Cinedome Newark, [illegible] Crow Canyon, [illegible], CUC = Century Union City, CWC = Century Walnut Creek, [illegible], GL = Grand Lake, JL = Jack London, LP = La Peña, [illegible], PM = Piedmont, [illegible], RR = Regal Hacienda, [illegible], S = Shattuck, UAB = UA Berkeley, [illegible], V = Vine, WWS = West Wind Solano

[illegible]

3 Idiots [illegible]

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel [illegible]

Avatar [illegible]

The Blind Side [illegible]

The Book of Eli [illegible]

Broken Embraces (Los abrazos rotos) [illegible]

Brothers [illegible]

Crazy Heart [illegible]

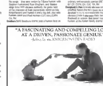
Daybreakers [illegible]

Extraordinary Measures [illegible]

Fantastic Mr. Fox [illegible]

I Found a [illegible] **(Dulha Mil Gaya)** [illegible]

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus [illegible]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MOT

of Heath Ledger as a Shrouded marvelous adapted by Parnassus. When Ledger died during production his role was finished by a top-notch trio of Tinseltown Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell. See it on the biggest screen you can and be swept away. Co-written by Gilliam and Charles McKeown (122 min.) (K.V.)CAPN, GL, S, UA87

Invictus Newly elected president Nelson Mandela (played by Morgan Freeman with pomp and circumstance) sees rugby, and especially Springboks, uniquely Afrikaner. (plucky Matt Damon) with Afrikaans surprise to help black and nonwhite blacks and whites in post-apartheid South Africa. The sports sequences at the 1995 Rugby World Cup are exciting and Clint Eastwood knows how to milk a moral procedural for all it's worth, but Anthony Peckham's screenplay (adapted from John Carlin's book) begins to fill in all but the most tup-notch of the cinematic clichés. Might as well have been a documentary. Actor Tony Kgoroge does a nice job with the part of Mandela's bodyguard chief (134 min.) (K.V.)CAPN, GL, OR, RH, UA69

It's Complicated How to turn a Hudson middle-aged romantic comedy into theater gold: Hire Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin to portray a successful (what else?) but lonely restaurant owner, her ex-wife but and interested husband, and the meek architect she hires to remodel her home, respectively. Then Tinseltown and let them work. Writer-director Nancy Meyers, who made a career concocting these middle-aged escapades (Baby Boom, Father of the Bride, etc.), and this time she's theater with a blue-ribbon cast, plus a surprising theater of sex. The laughs keep on coming in spite of the early situations (118 min.) (K.V.)AMC, CMC, CB, CEPM, RH, CUC, BCC, CNC, RA, RH, JL, RCC, UA8

Leap Year Anna, a Boston Modern House girl (Amy Adams), is having no luck getting her pastry-bound boyfriend to propose to her, so she travels off to Ireland to surprise him on Leap Day, February 29, the Irish theater of Sadie Hawkins Day. But accident-prone Anna suffers more travel headaches than John Candy and Steve Martin in Planes, Trains & Automobiles. ... good thing she hooks up with a friendly Hibernian he-man (Matthew Goode) on her road. Guess what husband next. Despite everything, Boston, her red-haired, innocent, peaches-and-cream charm helps us swallow our cinematic once again. But settle the rest time, I assure it. Directed by Anand Tucker (And When Did You Last See Your Father?) from a screenplay by Deborah Kaplan and Harry Elfont (95 min.) (K.V.)CMC, CH, CRC, RA, RH, UA8, UA69

Legion Biblical theater, top-notch this apocalyptic team from theater Scott Stewart, Paul Bettany and Dennis Quaid star (120 min.) BC, BP, CMC, CB, CEPN, CI, CUC, EM, CCC, RA, RH, JL, UA8

The Lovely Bones Filmmaker Peter Jackson (Lord of the Rings) time spends too much time and energy in heaven (or is it purgatory?), swinging through drone of flowers with newly deceased teenage murder victim Susie Salmon (Saoirse Ronan from Atonement) ... who actually remembering, her revenge on the murderer (Stanley Tucci in creepy mode) from up here in the heavenly glades while her surprise (Mark Wahlberg, Rachel Weisz) grieve further down below. Much more interesting than CGI in paradise are the earthly excursions of Susie, her family, and her friends in their Seventies-era Pennsylvania suburb. Tucker the talk pray. Director/co-writer Jackson ... he adapted Alice Sebold's novel with Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens ... handled the same basic type of macabre much more convincingly in his 1994 drama Heavenly Creatures. Also with Susan Sarandon and Michael Imperioli (135 min.) (K.V.)AMC, BC, BP, CMC, CB, CEPN, CH, RH, CCC, GL, RA, RH, JL, UA8, UA69

Me and Orson Welles One-time stage theater Richard Linklater made this warm, cozy nostalgic portray of New York theater life in the mid-1930s, specifically the Mercury Theatre's stage production of Julius Caesar, the pre-Citizen Kane launching pad for young genius Orson Welles. Playing the great man is the current king of Welles impersonators, English actor Christian McKay ... he has the face, the voice the heft, the mannerisms. Zac Efron and Claire Danes, as young lovers in the theater company, get overshadowed by a high-powered supporting cast, Taylor Tucker as Joseph Cotten. These theater as

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus.

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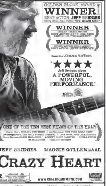
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[illegible] Ben Chaplin as [illegible] [illegible] (1:14 min.) (K.Y.)

Mysteries of Egypt [illegible] Ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

Nine [illegible] 1962 film [illegible] Daniel Day-Lewis [illegible] Penelope Cruz, Nicole Kidman, Kate [illegible] Sophia Loren [illegible] (118 min.) (K.Y.) CAPH, [illegible]

Paa [illegible] with English subtitles. [illegible]

Pirate Radio [illegible] Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rhys Ifans, Bill Nighy, Nick Frost [illegible] Kenneth Branagh [illegible] Emma Thompson [illegible] Richard Curtis [illegible] (135 min.) (K.Y.) [illegible]

Precious [illegible] 1987 [illegible] Sapphire's [illegible] (110 min.) (K.Y.) [illegible]

The Princess and the Frog Disney's return to hand-drawn animation [illegible] New Orleans [illegible] Keith David [illegible] Oprah Winfrey [illegible] John Goodman [illegible] Jim Cummings as Ray the Cajun firefly. [illegible] Directed by Ron Clements and John Musker [illegible] (97 min.) (K.Y.) [illegible]

Pyaar Impossible! Priyanka Chopra and Uday Chopra star in this romantic comedy [illegible]

The Road [illegible] Viggo Mortensen [illegible] Kodi Smit-McPhee [illegible] Cormac McCarthy [illegible] John Hillcoat [illegible] Charlize Theron (112 min.) (K.Y.) [illegible]

Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year [illegible] with English subtitles. [illegible]

Sherlock Holmes Robert Downey Jr. [illegible] Jude Law [illegible] Holmes' [illegible] Guy Ritchie [illegible] Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, RocknRolla [illegible] Mark Strong [illegible] Eddie Marsan as Inspector Lestrade [illegible] Rachel McAdams [illegible] Arthur Conan Doyle [illegible] (128 min.) (K.Y.) [illegible]

A Single Man Colin Firth [illegible] 1960s-era [illegible] Tom Ford's adaptation of Christopher Isherwood's novel. [illegible] Julianne Moore as George's [illegible] Santa Monica. [illegible] Screenplay by Ford and David Scearce. [illegible] (101 min.) (K.Y.) CAPH, AL, PM, Y

[illegible] The story of everyone's favorite [illegible] CSC

The Spy Next Door [illegible] Jackie Chan [illegible] Amber Valletta [illegible] (92 min.) [illegible]

To the [illegible] [illegible] NASA [illegible] CSC

The Tooth Fairy [illegible] Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson [illegible] Julie Andrews [illegible] Billy Crystal [illegible] Ashley Judd [illegible] (101 min.) [illegible]

A Town Called Panic (Panique au village) [illegible] Stéphane Aubier and Vincent Patar's [illegible] Cowboy [illegible] Indian [illegible] Horse [illegible] In French with English subtitles. (75 min.) (K.Y.) [illegible]

The Twilight Saga: New Moon Second installment [illegible] Kristen Stewart [illegible] Robert Pattinson [illegible] Taylor Lautner [illegible] Chris Weitz [illegible] Dakota Fanning [illegible] (130 min.) (K.Y.) [illegible]

Up in the Air George Clooney [illegible] Jason Reitman [illegible] Vera Farmiga [illegible] (109 min.) (K.Y.) [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

The White Ribbon (Das weisse Band) Nothing is ever easy with filmmaker Michael Haneke [illegible] World War I [illegible] (144 min.) (K.Y.) [illegible]

The Young Victoria [illegible] Emily Blunt [illegible] Jean-Marc Vallée [illegible] Prince Albert (Rupert Friend) [illegible] Julian Fellowes [illegible] (100 min.) (K.Y.) CAPH, [illegible]

Youth in Revolt [illegible] [illegible] (90 min.) (K.Y.) [illegible]

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

Parade (75 min., 1974). The Modern Comedy of Jacques Tati (PFA, 7:00).
Open City (102 min., 1945). [illegible] (PFA, 8:35).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

[illegible] ([illegible] min., 1931). [illegible] Early Frank Capra (PFA, 7:00).
[illegible] (87 min., 1932). [illegible] Early Frank Capra (PFA, 8:50).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

The [illegible] (85 min., 2009). Saturday matinees at [illegible] (Claremont Branch Library, Berkeley, 3:00).
I Walked with a Zombie (69 min., 1943). [illegible] Shadows: The [illegible] of Val Lewton (PFA, 7:40).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

The Wall (117 min., 1982). Watching the Unwatchable: Films Confront [illegible] (PFA, 5:00).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

[illegible] (113 min., 1996). [illegible] Berkeley, 7:30).
[illegible] (100 min., 1968). Watching the Unwatchable: [illegible] (PFA, 7:30).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

[illegible] (80 min., 2003). [illegible] Considering the College Experience through Film (PFA, 7:00). ●

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SORRY NO PASSES
FRI-SAT-SUN [illegible]
MON-WED [illegible]

SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG13)
FRI-SAT SUN [illegible]
MON-THUR [illegible]

IT'S COMPLICATED (PG13)
FRI-SAT SUN [illegible]
MON-THUR [illegible]

IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS (PG13)
DAILY [illegible]

AVATAR In Digital 3D (PG13)
FRI SAT SUN [illegible]
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LEGION (R)
FRI-SAT SUN [illegible]
MON-WED [illegible]

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UP IN THE AIR (R)
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CREATION (PG-13)
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THE YOUNG VICTORIA (PG)
[illegible]
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[illegible]
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PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R)
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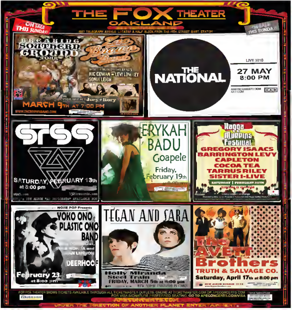

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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ANOTHER PLANET ENTERTAINMENT

CLASSIC ROCK EXPERIMENTS

Citay explores the emotional side of rock with its new album *Dream Get Together*

By Richard Parks

Citay

Lounging on a three-piece couch at his new Mission district flat, Ezra Feinberg appears more grad student than guitar hero when discussing his band's third full-length release, *Dream Get Together*. The songwriter at the helm of Citay has close-cut, mussed hair and a day's scruff, and wears an Astro Turf-green T-shirt with faded lettering identifying him as a Special Olympics volunteer. Feinberg, 33, speaks in an easy urban drawl that occasionally reaches a hoarse peak — in moments of self reflection on the finer points of his band's sound, when he uses words like "catharsis" and "epic-ness," or when discussing the provenance of the name Citay.

"It's how the word 'city' is sung," Feinberg said. "I like the idea of taking a word the way it's sung in songs and taking it out of the song." Feinberg says the name doesn't refer to a particular artist or song, then rattles off a list of artists who have sung "citay" — including Stevie Wonder, Journey, Otis Redding, and Tom Petty. Nor does the name directly refer to the "citay" Feinberg has called home since moving from Brooklyn in 2004. "I had the name before I moved to San Francisco," he said.

Citay's lengthy, pastoral soundscapes (some push eight minutes) layer harmonized electric leads atop tuneful percussion, plucked or ardently strummed strings, keys, and dreamy vocal harmonies. Feinberg will often forsake traditional pop structures and choruses for lyric-less "oohs" and "ahs" while the momentum of many instruments and many players builds. Citay's carefully crafted, mellow intensity is far from some of the gods of classic rock name-checked in much of the band's press. Critics lean hard on the classic rock references — sometimes even concluding that the band is a tribute. "You'd be surprised about that," he said. "I get turned off by bands that I feel like are essentially tributes. I'm not going for power chords and fist-pumping. I'm going for something much more cathartic. I want it to be exciting and epic but I don't want it to be hypermasculine. I want it to be emotional."

Feinberg is discerning and discursive when it comes to the influences on Citay's sound. He's also acutely aware of how the band is perceived in the press, admitting that preoccupations about snarky reviews on some taste-making web sites can affect his songwriting process. Citay's first record, *Little Kingdom*, was favorably reviewed on Pitchfork, but Feinberg thinks what he is doing is far from flavor-of-the-month indie rock. "I don't think that most music journalists like the first Boston record," he said.

In response to a request to look through the records in his living room, he demurs, noting that it wouldn't be representative of his tastes. "You'd be better off looking through my iPod," he said, citing a love of Popol Vuh and NEU! along with CSNY, Big Star, the Byrds, and Rufus Wainwright.

Feinberg describes Citay as "sort of this vast web of bands and musicians." There's not a single member left from the original live act save Feinberg. Current and past contributors comprise a rotating set of players with many other notable projects on the go. The family tree stretches to local bands the Dry Spells, 3 Leafs, Tussle, Crime in Choir, and Vetiver. But Feinberg's most important musical-familial connection is Tim Green. Feinberg refers to Green, a sought-after producer and member of local math-rock outfit the Fucking Champs who has committed to tape the likes of the Melvins and Howlin Rain, with a fraternal regard.

Green had already worked with Feinberg on the East Coast recording Feast, a "short-lived, heavy, real rock crazy stoner band I had in Brooklyn in '02, '03, and '04." Feinberg remembers well the moment he knew he had met a musical like-mind: in a van on the way to the Martha's Vineyard studio where Feast was recording. "We were driving around in a van listening to the first Heart record," Feinberg said, "and all the sudden we both air-guitared at like the same moment. We've been brothers ever since."

After a few months of long-distance phone friendship, Feinberg decided to pick up and move West, knowing he would work on something new with Green. Before he got his own place in the city, Feinberg crashed on the couch at Green's studio. Soon after, Citay was founded as a studio project, with Green producing, Feinberg writing, and the two plus Champs drummer Tim Soete playing all the parts. Band members now number seven or so during live shows. Even more are listed as contributors to *Dream Get Together*.

Green admits that back in 2004, when the two started tracking what would become Citay's self-titled debut on Important Records, he had little idea Feinberg's bedroom project would grow to be the "juggernaut" it is today. "I never had plans to do a show live," Green says. "I don't know if [Feinberg] did either." But after several favorable reviews, Feinberg was contacted by the organizers of *Arthur* magazine's Arthurfest in Los Angeles. A hastily assembled live band included Green on guitar, a post he kept for six months before returning to his job as a producer and his role in the Champs. From those unlikely beginnings, Green has watched Citay evolve both as a studio band and a live band, with more and more contributions from the other band members in the studio with each album, and more cohesion on stage. "It's been exponentially ramping up in quality," Green said. "It feels much more like a band than a backing band playing with the dude who wrote the songs."

Green sees another concomitant evolution in Feinberg's songwriting. Since *Citay*, Feinberg's process has been to make scratch recordings on GarageBand, experimenting with vocal lines and guitar textures. He then brings them to Green's studio, where arrangements and full structures coalesce. At first, the dearth of members meant all instruments were tracked separately. These processes often lead to a de-emphasis of strong lead vocal lines, and nonconventional song structures that come with sectional studio experimentation. Green first encouraged Feinberg to track parts with a drummer. "Once you make that decision it makes it much harder to go back and reorganize," Green said. "It's a lot like working without a net. Feinberg was hesitant to do it at first. I know it made the drummer a lot happier." *Dream Get Together* contains some very complete, verse-chorus-verse songs with clear vocals from Feinberg. "I've encouraged him to sing more," Green continued. "His songwriting has gotten better with each album."

Show Details
Citay performs on Friday Jan. 29, at Slim's (333 11th St., San Francisco) with the Fruit Bats. 9 p.m. $15. Slims-SF.com

Feinberg agrees that *Dream Get Together* shows this progression, with a few tracks that, in their length, clarity, and structure, complete his move toward pop sensibilities and away from the "blunted hedonism" of some of his classic rock forebears. It may sound conventional, but for Citay it's experimental.

"I'm into long-form composition," Feinberg said. "But it's not enough just to write a couple of good parts. It feels to me for Citay it's expansive to embrace the pop song." ●

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ANOTHER PLANET ENTERTAINMENT.

THE CHAMBER WILL ROCK

It took ten years for Cornelius Boots to form a group that fit his concept. Now he wants the rest of us to get it.

By Rachel Swan

Edmund Welles

Cornelius Boots developed the concept for his bass clarinet four-tet, Edmund Welles, several years before the band actually happened. He doesn't have an exact date for the band's genesis, but it must have been around 1996, when he wrote his first three-movement bass clarinet piece while pursuing a music degree at the University of Indiana. At the time, he played in a funk band and listened to a wide variety of music, from gospel to Seventies-era jazz fusion to prog rock to doo-wop. His idea for Edmund Welles was novel: four deep-voiced reed instruments, each imitating a different component of a rock band (often, two would share a bass line while the other two played melody, though Boots sometimes puts one voice on bass and three on top, or vice versa, depending on the genre). Boots named his band for a character in a Monty Python sketch.

Before launching the group, he tested its limitations. He wrote four-clarinet arrangements of several rock tunes, including "Creep" by Radiohead and "Is She Weird" by the Pixies. He followed up with four boogie-woogie piano transcriptions, some baroque organ pieces, exacting versions of Shaker hymns and Renaissance motets, and some gospel with five or six vocal parts. He spent about three years in compositional boot camp and premiered his material at his Masters recital in 1999.

After moving to Chicago, he tried to launch his band in earnest. Easier said than done. In three years he created a thick dossier, but never found three other bass clarinetists who fit the bill. So he moved to Eugene, Oregon, and spent a year practicing Japanese bamboo flute while writing the first Edmund Welles album. The following year, he migrated to the Bay Area at the behest of fellow clarinetist Beth Custer, who promised to help him put the group together. Its original incarnation — with Custer, Ben Goldberg, and Jacob Lindsay — lasted one year. Boots would form three more iterations before coming up with the current lineup in 2006. In the meantime, he produced two Edmund Welles albums himself by playing all four parts and over-dubbing.

Considering the necessary qualifications, it's little surprise he had such trouble finding personnel. "You can't be just a classical player," he explained in a recent e-mail. "And almost never does it work out to be a jazz saxophonist who dabbles in honking on the bass clarinet." Add to that a whole list of other requisites. Each band member had to own an expensive model of bass clarinet that plays low C. Each had to sight read and play at a virtuosic level, and be willing to rehearse often. Furthermore, Boots wanted all his fellow musicians to be omnivorous consumers of genre. His repertoire included arrangements of vocal gospel, black metal, and classic rock, most of which had never been touched by woodwinds, let alone bass clarinet. On top of all that lay the usual problem of finding people with "a cheery disposition, or at least a minimum level of niceness."

Then there's the challenge of, well, keeping up with Boots. He grew up in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, started playing clarinet in fourth grade and went through his jazz phase in middle school. He played baritone sax in the high school jazz band, and started collecting records

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at a young age, inspired partly by his geeky older brother. As a kid he got in the habit of obsessively cataloguing one artist at a time, starting with classic rock group Jethro Tull. "That's all I spent my money on," he said. "I would go to the discount bin and buy $3.99 cassettes." He would later repeat the process with Black Sabbath, listening to their first eight albums in chronological order for two years.

Such listening habits led Boots to understand rock at a minute level. Give him a record by Tool, for instance, and he'll immediately get distracted by the intricacies: the key changes, the odd meters, the shifts in groove that stem more from the band members' interest in numerology than anything else. Boots' composition "Watch Me Die" imports the Tool format into his current four-clarinet setup, using a metal rhythmic mid-section and over-the-top ending. It starts on a crescendo. Boots' 2004 debut album, *Agrippa's 3 Books* (named for an occult philosopher), includes three metal covers — one from Sabbath, one by Spinal Tap, and one by the Brazilian band Sepultura. *Agrippa* qualifies as chamber music, but it's structured like a rock album. It kicks off with a couple rock tunes (one is more "new-tune-y," he said, but still riff-based), followed by a ballad, then more rock tunes at varying tempos, then an epic "death metal ritual expedition and lamentation." (Its title, appropriately enough, is "Asmodeus: The Destroyer King of the Demons.")

Edmund Welles has gone through five iterations since its genesis. The current version, in place since 2006, features Boots, Aaron Novik, Jonathan Russell, and Jeff Anderle. Novik — who also leads his own chamber band, Thoney Booky — joined Edmund Welles in 2004, and has thus been the most consistent of Boots' collaborators. He said the group definitely has its rewards. The configuration lends itself to some very imaginative music that's transferable both to rock clubs (like the Starry Plough or Hotel Utah) or concert halls (like the Hillside Club, where they play this weekend). Not to mention that most bass clarinetists seldom get to play alongside three of their peers. Still, having a concept and discography that predates the actual group was, and is, a tricky thing to negotiate. "It's definitely come up a lot," said Novik. "Cornelius feels very strongly that the concept is stronger than any individuals. ... It took us a while to reconcile with that. Jonathan and I are composers, and it's such an attractive instrumentation to write for."

And given that it took ten years to find four clarinetists who got with the program, imagine what happens when Boots tries to foist his concept on other people. *Agrippa* is, in fact, pretty diffuse. Genre-wise, it careens in every direction. Boots wrote in the liner notes that he based his opening tune, "Cause & Effect" ("hip-hop electronica pop with cheek,") on a beat he heard leaking from someone's headphones. "I suspect it was hip-hop," he explained, "since the listener was rapping along, but I could clearly hear the electronic drum beat which had a very mathematical and infectious increase of subdivisions every two measures." With everything transposed for four bass clarinet parts, it usually comes across as chamber music, regardless of all the pop-song signifiers.

Novik says that's not really a problem. "People hear saxophone, and they think jazz, no matter what genre the person is playing," he said. Similarly, the clarinet is condemned to always be a classical instrument. But there are a lot of people who get it, said Boots. Edmund Welles gets a lot of stragglers from the Faun Fables and Sleepytime Gorilla Museum crowds, plus a few die-hards who really like hardy clarinet music. There's even an Edmund Welles Facebook page, and nobody is sure who made it. In the meantime, Boots has embarked on a new project: noh music. His new album, *Sabbaticus Rex*, combines Japanese flute and gong. All the song titles are named after types of bamboo. "The music privileges sound over melody," said Boots. "We call it 'easy listening for dinosaurs.'"

Now he just has to find an audience. ●

To share this story go to: ebx.ly/pr/welles

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

Edmund Welles performs Friday Jan 29 and Saturday Jan 30 at the Hillside Club (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley) 8 p.m. $10-$15. Fredd Price opens. EdmundWelles.com

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SCRUTINIZING LORENZO HOOPES

Maybe there are other reasons not to reappoint him to the Paramount board. Plus Haiti benefits and RIP Jazz Island

By Kathleen Wentz

Gay-rights activists have denounced the re-nomination of **Lorenzo Hoopes** to the Paramount Theatre's board of directors because the 96-year-old former president of the Mormon Temple was Oakland's leading contributor to Proposition 8, the anti-gay-marriage initiative. While it appears that the city council won't approve him, history suggests that there are other reasons to question his qualifications.

As we reported in 2007, the nonprofit board, which operates on behalf of the city-owned facility, has long been criticized for being blithely out of touch and lacking industry knowledge. At least two members — Hoopes included — are in their nineties, and have been on the board since its inception in 1973.

Former board member **Renn Boisvert** argued that the largely self-perpetuating board wasn't nearly proactive enough in making the historic theater a thriving venue. He was responsible for ending the city's yearly subsidy of the theater (between $150,000 and $300,000 annually) because he believed it could be self-sufficient. He believed that the theater could benefit from sponsorships, increased marketing, increased beverage sales, and producing more of its own shows. Yet board members — Hoopes included — rejected Boisvert's recommendations and eventually booted him off.

While Hoopes has been devoted to the Paramount for decades (he was involved in the fund-raising that helped restore the theater), some of his beliefs may have cost the Paramount revenue. In 2002, Boisvert convinced the board to pay for a study on possible sponsorships. According to the report, the opportunities were worth more than $400,000 per year. But in an interview at the time of our story, Hoopes called Boisvert's ideas "completely impractical." He said he hoped to increase the theater's sale of beverages but stopped short of allowing patrons to take drinks into the theater. He called the Paramount "primarily a rental building" and said that being a producer was "risky business." "We don't do that," he said, adding that the Paramount's classic movie series was an exception. "We get our income from renting or movie classics," he said.

Bay Area Musicians to Aid Haiti

With the earthquake in Haiti all the news, Bay Area musicians are coming together to donate to the cause. At least four benefit shows have been announced so far (and we're sure there are many more). **SILA**, **Bayonics**, **Native Elements**, **Joe Bagale**, **J-Boogie**, **Non-Stop Bhangra**, and others will perform at "SF Hearts Haiti" at the Independent on Wednesday, January 27. Tickets for the show will cost $10, and 100 percent of the proceeds from the door will be donated to Doctors Without Borders. Money from the door at Sila's Thursday night residency at Coda, "Sahara," also will be donated.

Two benefits at Ashkenaz: Haitian-born Oakland-based Afro-Caribbean band **Kalbass Kreyol** will headline a show on Thursday, January 28, at Ashkenaz (8 p.m., $10+). Proceeds from the show will go to the Haitian Emergency Relief Fund. The following week, Bay Area-based Afro-Caribbean fusion group **Lakay**, led by **Mystic Man**, and the Haitian dance troupe **Rara Fusion** will play a show, which will start with an Afro-Haitian dance lesson. The event happens Saturday, February 6, 8:30 p.m., $13 and up.

Latin jazz artists will stage a benefit concert on February 28, 3 to 8 p.m., at Pier 23 Café. Performers include **Latin Jazz Youth Ensemble of San Francisco**, **Sandy Cressman & Sombra y Luz**, **Ray Obiedo and Mambo Caribe**, the **Bay Area Latin Jazz All-Stars**, **Anthony Blea**, **Ray Obiedo**, **Jesus Diaz**, **John Santos**, **Wayne Wallace**, and many more. Tickets cost $25 and all proceeds will go to Sanfoods for Haiti.

Anna's Jazz Island Closes

In early January, downtown Berkeley jazz club **Anna's Jazz Island** announced it was closing. In a written statement, owner **Anna de Leon** cited issues with the developer of her venue on Allston Way — including "rowdy and disruptive events" next door at the **Gaia Arts Center** — as well as the desire on behalf of a new owner of the building to terminate her lease. San Francisco's **Marsh Theater** is taking over the entire two lower floors of the Gaia Building, and held its first show there last week. This may not be the end of the long-standing jazz venue, however. De Leon wrote: "We are now looking for a new space and a new partner, somebody who loves jazz, to participate in opening a new venue."

Three-Dot Round-Up

First Lady **Michelle Obama** told *People Magazine* that the Oakland R&B singer **Ledisi** is one of her favorite artists on her iPod. ... CNN announced it was launching two new online video series with *Vice Magazine's* **VBS TV** and **Sub Pop Records**. The former will feature VBS TV's content on CNN.com, while the latter will be a video tour diary in Asia with the **Handsome Furs**. ... **Leopold and His Fiction** have returned to the studio to record its third album, which will be produced by **Thom Monahan** (**Devendra Banhart**, **Little Joy**, **Vetiver**). ... String metal trio **Judgement Day** will release a new album, *Peacocks/Pink Monsters*, on April 13, the follow-up to 2008's *Dark Opus*. ... **WHY?** drummer **Josiah Wolf** tries the solo gig on a new effort on **Anticon**, *Jet Lag*, to be released March 2. ... **Rogue Wave** takes a left turn for its new album, *Permalight*, which features "club beats." The album releases March 2. ... February marks the start of the fifth annual **RPM Challenge**, which challenges musicians to produce a record (10 songs or 35 minutes long) in 28 days. *The East Bay Express* will host a listening party on March 27 (venue TBA). Register at RPMChallenge.com ●

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Ear Bud is culled from our music blog, Ear Bud.

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Top 100 Bay Area Restaurants 2009 and Top 10 New Restaurants of 2008 – San Francisco Chronicle

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Thurs, January 28
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Fri Sat Sun January 29, 30, 31
PUERTO RICO GOLDEN JAZZ ALL-STARS
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this weekend!
Sun, January 31 (8:30pm: Late Show)
CATHERINE FEENY

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Fri Sat Sun January 29, 30, 31
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MARK HUMMEL'S BLUES HARMONICA BLOWOUT
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LLOYD GREGORY

Tues February 2
next week!
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Wed February 3
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Thurs Fri Sat Sun, February 4, 5, 6, 7
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house, mashups, funk, R&B at 9p
28

FRIDAY FUNK with DJ Kimani
funk, house, soulful beats at 9p
29

Live Music MESTIZA
latin, soul, salsa at 7p
UPTOWN SHAKEDOWN with DJ Kimani
funk, house, soulful beats at 9:30p
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FRI 1/29 9:00 pm $12 — WORLD
BRASS MENAZERI
SOUND MOUNTAIN
8:00 pm dance lesson

SAT 1/30 9:30 pm $10 — GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE BANDS
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SUN 1/31 3:00 pm $6 adults $4 kids — "SOGGY SUNDAYS" KIDS SERIES
ORANGE SHERBET with special guest ZAC MATTHEWS + MAGICAL MYSTERY MARCHING BAND

SUN 1/31 7:00 pm $10 — ACOUSTIC GROOVE
ALMA DESNUDA
Benefit for BOSS (Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency)

TUE 2/2 6:30 pm $10 — CAJUN
SAUCE PIQUANTE
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CD REVIEWS

REVENGE OF THE PAST

Grateful Dead revivalists, whittled-down Spoon, and old-school journeymen

Kevin Barker

You & Me

Ah, the perils of being a devoted culture-vulture — one absorbs so much (too much?) and ends up jaded. (Example: So many people are going batty over *Avatar* like it's reinvented the sci-fi genre, but this writer saw a beautiful but predictable retread of *Dances With Wolves* — but how many multiplex-moviegoers saw the latter?) Take Kevin Barker, guitarist for the fine alt-folk combo Vetiver. This, his debut solo platter, is a nice Americana/country rock set somewhat recalling the Grateful Dead in its semi-unplugged homespun *Workingman's Dead* mode. Barker's and main Dead man Jerry Garcia's voices share that plaintive quality and their respective techniques on the six-strings also share some characteristics. But the odd thing is, many a Haight Street hipster wouldn't extinguish via their urine your typical Deadhead if s/he were ablaze.

Comparing *You & Me* to the Dead's chilled-out California country/folk approach isn't meant as a negative criticism — it might be simple coincidence that they share common ground. Barker's fingerpicking on the acoustic axe is quite excellent (especially on "My Lady") and his songs have a sweet (though not syrupy) comfortingly downy tone to them. His songs are long enough to feature some dandy instrumental dexterity but not so long as to be self-indulgent or meandering. And yes, the influence of Fairport Convention and their British folk-rock ilk is felt as well ("I Will Fly").

Perhaps because of the high quality of mothership Vetiver, this writer was maybe expecting something ... *different*, perhaps more of a departure from what they do. But not compared to Vetiver (or the Dead), *You & Me* stands as a gratifying listen. (Gnomonsong)

— Mark Keresman

Spoon

Transference

Any year now, Spoon will release an album consisting of one 35-minute unfailing groove anchored by bass and peppered with erratic guitar-chord grunts and Britt Daniel's wordless exclamations ("Awright!") — an idealized endgame that distills the band's reductive technique to its purest state. Until then, *Transference*, the Austin band's seventh full-length, will serve as another whittling down of the singular aesthetic that has made it one of the most engaging American bands of the past decade.

Unlike its previous album, 2007's Top 10-charting *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga*, *Transference* is deficient in the effervescence department, with lots of rigid vamps and minimal chord changes. I'll back the spacey "Who Makes Your Money" — not just because Daniel sings it "whammy-shammy," but because it adheres to the Guitars When Necessary rule. The tight interplay between guitar and bass on "Written in Reverse," an off-kilter rocker that channels late-period Elvis Costello, puts the emphasis on white-knuckled propulsion. And I'll excuse "I Saw the Light" for pilfering the bass of descending progression used in earlier songs "Don't Make Me a Target" and "The Beast and Dragon, Adored" because its blood is hot.

But from a band known for the sharp clockwork of its sequencing, *Transference* has a weird flow that gets weirder during a second half in which we get a gestational piano ballad ("Goodnight Laura"), two utterly lackluster entries in the Spoon catalog ("Out Go the Lights" and "Got Nuffin"), and a closer that, despite a barrage of tape loops, runs in place ("Nobody Gets Me But You"). Perhaps the thin, straight line that Spoon has hewed to for so long has finally become too thin, too straight. (Merge)

— Zeth Lundy

Souls of Mischief

Montezuma's Revenge

Much ado has been made of the creative process that spawned *Montezuma's Revenge*, the latest from Oakland hip-hop crew Souls of Mischief. It's an old-school journeyman's album, produced over the course of a year in a house near Point Reyes. The beats are beautiful — mostly soul- and blues-based, with artfully chosen samples. The rhymes, meanwhile, sound over-rehearsed.

Souls of Mischief are not great extemporaneous speakers, or terrific spinners-of-yarns. The song "Tour Stories," for instance, should be gossipy travelogue about whatever mayhem rappers commit when they touch down in a foreign land. Instead it makes the tour sound formidably boring. But other songs show the group's cohesion. *Montezuma's Revenge* has no guest artists, so it's really the work of four MCs who grew up on the same turf and started rapping together as teens. And that long-standing camaraderie shines through.

Not to mention that the album has several inspired moments. The bad-girlfriend song "Lickity Split" exemplifies the type of rap in which Souls specialize: a common man story for the uncommonly handsome man. It's funny, it's cranky almost to the point of being obnoxious, it's got a good beat. That's nothing compared to "You Got It," which includes a sordid description of STD symptoms. Nasty. After two decades in the game, these guys still have a sense of humor in tact. That's more than anyone could hope for. (Hiero Imperium)

— Rachel Swan

Souls of Mischief play Mezzanine (333 Jessie St., SF) on Thursday, Jan. 28, 9 p.m., $15-$20. MezzanineSF.com

To share this story go to: ebx.ly/cd3

LOCAL LICKS

Waheed and the Resistance

It's Time

Awesome conscious rap album from these Oakland veterans. Those who were starting to get a little bored with the whole hyphy thing will find sweet relief in *It's Time*, which features nineteen tracks worth of intelligent, relevant, socially aware lyrics layered over perfectly arranged music. A world-class local band — buy this one. (Power Surge Records)

Glass House

Sing Me the Hammer

Experimental world-folk duo Glass House, featuring Mark Vickness and David Worm, make the kind of music that the Bay Area's substantial population of liberal, New Age-influenced citizens love. With earnest lyrics and an overall tone that's very, very serious, this EP isn't for everyone, but will no doubt strike a chord with its target audience. (self-released)

At Noe Valley Ministry (1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco) on January 30, 8:15 p.m., $16.

Luke Franks & the Federalists

The Way We Ran

With a unique blend of rock, folk, pop, and indie, *The Way We Ran* is a mature, well-balanced album. It's skillful but not pretentious, and deceptively simple. With lyrics that range in tone from charmingly self-deprecating to downright conceited, Franks comes across as refreshingly direct and pretty funny. With this much musical diversity, many listeners will probably find something to love here. (Talking House Records)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on February 1, 9:30 p.m., $10.

Hooray for Everything

Hooray for Everything

Impressive debut from this punk trio that has only been together for about a year. Singer Faith is sweet-voiced but snarly, with lyrical highlights that include a hilariously pointed send-up of the kind of guys who want to marry a RealDoll. Sitting solidly at the more melodic, poppy end of the punk spectrum, this is as accessible as punk gets. Highly recommended.

At the Knockout (3223 Mission St., San Francisco) on February 2, 9 p.m., free.

Bay Area bands, show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*.
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 28

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Dr. Mojo Cafe Van Kleef, 8 pm, free
Jim Diamond Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$20.50
Vermillion Lies w/ Kevlar Cats, Voodoo Doom Fever, Bash Club, 8 pm, tba

Classical & Opera

Hotel Jaffe solo guitar, Cafe Cups Wine Bar, Restaurant & Gallery, 7-8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jacqui Naylor Quartet Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $15-$20
Don Harper's Big Swing in Jazz Hotel Anna's, 8 pm, $5
Mike Wollenberg solo jazz guitar, Mono Colors, 8 & 15 pm, free
Club Harmonica and Starboard Watch Quinn's Lighthouse, 8 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Big Vegas Trio w/ The Groove Stage, Starry Plough, 9 pm, $2
Thursday Night Live live music every week, Shattuck Nightclub, 7 pm, $5-$12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Brazilian Vibes Music featuring Jane Lenoir, Anne Lenoir, Carlos Tamarit & Bash Box, Berkeley Public Library, Central Vendors

12:15 pm, free
Haunus Carlingusta Relief Benefit featuring Tadbano Brazel Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10
Salsa Night w/ DJ Eddie T, plus dance lessons, Venue's Bar & Grill, 8 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Blame Sally Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $22-$18
Harmonica w/ Julia Dolan, The Independent, 8 pm, $12-$14
King's Night all-star world jam, Skip's Tavern, 8 pm, tba
Hotel Party Hotel Biscuits & Blues, 8 pm, $18
Modera w/ Mare and the Bearded Ladies, Boudoir Boulshop, 7 pm, tba

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Hanson Marsefeld Rose Room, 8 pm, $35-$45
Dance Element Romney musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
presents Circus presents I Relief Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 pm, $23-$25
Swamp Donna San Francisco-based donna performs live jazz and blues, Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

311 w/ Mous Haus, Sugar & Gold, & My First Earthquake, Mezzanine, 8 pm, $20
Angel Island w/ Colin Opondal Machine, Cellar Honor, Kimo's, 8 pm, $5-$10
Dadlog w/ Dance Neighbors, & SwampTent, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $6
The Frail w/ Silver Swans, Vauntan Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10
Nergitaland Thee Parkside, 8 pm, $10
Polysics w/ The Redondes, The Chop, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $12-$14
The Soft Pack Diamond Steps, 10 pm, $5-$10

Sweet Psychosis w/ Modeo Carnout, Tom Tinsley & The Bicycle Wipeout, Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Loft Fest featuring a Funds Of Blessed, Orbert Royale, Kate Bredenburgh, Kings of 8 Bit, Supernatural MC & the Wheelers, Mezzanine, 8 pm, $15-$20
Sabasi Cods, 9 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Lisa & Los Bliss Mezzo, 9:30 pm, free

FRIDAY 29

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Emily Jhanna Mino w/ Bigfoot's Treehouse, Dead Skies, Sixth Club, 10 pm, $6
Greg Brown Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $28.50-$29.50
Moon Presents a Blues Harmonica Blowout featuring James Cotton, Paul Oscher, Mojo Buford, Willie Smith, & Johnny Dyer, Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $30-$38, $5 kids for matinee
Sammy Voodoo Annando's, 8 pm, $10

Classical & Opera

Madness Bach Soloists Presents Words and Romance of Bach St. Stephen's Church, 8 pm, $20-$45 general, $10-$40 students, seniors, children
Kronos Across the Bay Presents The Presents Earth, Air, Fire, Water Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 8 pm, $45, $5 students, $10 seniors

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Edmund Wrdes and Moon Mowee Hillside Club, 8 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Amendola vs. Blades Jazzschool, 8 pm, $15
Hotel Trio Luter, 8 pm, free
Mike Wollenberg solo jazz guitar, Mono Colors, 6:45-10 pm, free
Steve Vilentini Jazz Prologue Cafe Van Kleef, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Neon Motel w/ Dealeriz, Trustfeel, Modern Mercy & Saddest, 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, $10
Moon Bailey 20th Birthday Tribute 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 8 pm, tba
Medicine Pie w/ Poor Honey, Uptown, 9 pm, free
Wave Army Starry Plough, 9:30 pm, $8
Year Of The Dragon w/ The Inkes, Thursday Glasses, Telegraph, 8:30 pm, tba

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Jerry Kennedy 33 Revolutions Records Shop & Cafe, 7:30 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

African Vibration & Echo First Presbyterian Church, 7:30 pm, tba
Mdjil Madness Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $12
Pellejo Seco La Peña Cultural Center, 8:30 pm, $12
Reggae Party DJ Sweet Reggie spinning Calypso, R&B and Reggae w/ Meno Amba Sound and other rotating performers and DJs, Moon Fingers, 8 pm

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Blue Turtle Seduction Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $10-$12
Hotel Club Voodoo & Moss & 8, 10 pm

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Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

8 Legged Monster Cafe, 10 pm, $12
Hanson Marsefeld Rose Room, 7 pm, $25-$45
Dance Element Romney musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
Moon Westen Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mark, 8 pm, $10
An Evening With Walsh Ryan & Steve Diamond Great Diamond Music Hall, 8 pm, $25
Joyce Moss & Voodoo Vendetta Zingari Ristorante, 8 pm-midnight, tba
Walsh Alex Blades Jazz All-Stars Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $15-$24, $5 kids for matinee

Rock & Pop

The Blades Design w/ The Trophy Fire, Rave Smaller, & Pyramid Parned, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $10
Wind Books w/ Lost World, Moon Class, & Random, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $6
Fruit Bats w/ Cliffy Extra Classic, & DJ Benjamin Western, Slim's, 9 pm, $15
Madness and Lies w/ Walsh Tierney, Abu Kenwin, & Monster Radio Utah, 8:30 pm, $6
North Mississippi Blowout w/ Steve McLean Band, The Independent, 8 pm, $23-$28
Hope Wine w/ presents Laudanum, Modern Angel & DJ Milk Room, DNA Lounge, 8 pm, $15-$20
The Soft Pack Voodoo Music, 8 pm, free
Super Diamond w/ The Chameleons, Cash'd Out, Bottom's 363 Club, 8 pm, $22

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Shotgun Wedding Hip Hop Symphony Elbo Room, 10 pm, tba

SATURDAY 30

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Lee & Peter Garrymon Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$22.50
Moon Presents Blues Harmonica Blowout featuring James Cotton, Paul Oscher, Mojo Buford, Willie Smith, & Johnny Dyer, Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$30, $5 kids for matinee

Classical & Opera

Berkeley Bach Soloists presents Masterworld Versions of 1818 First Congregational Church, 8 pm, $20-$45, $10-$40 students, seniors, children

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Steven Walsh and Moon Mowee Hillside Club, 8 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rebekah Jazz Armando's, 8 pm, $12
Mike Wollenberg solo jazz guitar, Mono Colors, 5:45-10 pm, free

Kids

Design Element w/ Magical Mystery Moving Band, Ashkenaz, 3 pm, $6, $4 kids
The Madness La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 am, $8 donor, $4 kids

Rock & Pop

Eric McFadden's Fairynely presents w/ The Dirt Pappies, Starry Plough, 9:30 pm, $6
Blob With Hotel w/ Skeleton Television, Scimanty Grape, Sixth Club, 8 pm, tba
Jon Hansen Walsh Cafe Van Kleef, 8 pm, free

THE FAMILY STONE

Feb. 6
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LIVE SHOWS CALENDAR

All shows are free & all-ages welcome! Check Amoeba.com for complete listings

@ BERKELEY:

WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 27 • 6PM
THE SOFT PACK
San Diego-based lo-fi garage rockers The Soft Pack (formerly The Muslims) make Amoeba Berkeley for a show & signing. Pre-order their [illegible] self-titled album, out 2/2, on the day of the in-store [illegible] autographed CD [illegible] limited-edition 7" [illegible] The Soft Pack is one of the most anticipated & talked about releases of early 2010!

@ SAN FRANCISCO:

FRIDAY • JANUARY 29 • 6PM
THE MERMEN
Celebrating 20 years as SF's own inexplicably [illegible] The Mermen [illegible] In God We Trust [illegible] catch them at The Fillmore [illegible]

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 5 • 6PM
BLACK COBRA

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C&C

Rich Jones & the Administration Zellerbach Hall, tickets go on sale Saturday, [illegible] 12 at 11:00 a.m. 5 pm. tba
Play Live Band w/ The Dead Guitar, Moose pm, 9:30 pm, $10
The Bananas Kids w/ Lloyds Garage, Dungeonhaters, Uptown, 9 pm, $10
Side Effects w/ Holiday Bowl, Fambaughter Sheet, Ace Span, & Public Soloists, 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, $7
Brainwood Shattuck Down Low 5 pm, $8-$10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Jose Gutierrez y Sus Amigos La Peña Cultural Center, 8:30 pm, $15-$16
Guitarra Sonata Bar & Lounge, 7:30 pm, tba
Live Reggae Night w/ rotating live bands, Sweet Fingers, 9 pm, free
The San Ramon Valley High School [illegible] Cultural Carnival: PEACE w/ special appearances by SRVHS instrumental music, Students, San Ramon Valley High School Performing Arts Center, 7 pm, $10-$45, $10 Seniors and staff

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Earl Thomas and The Blues Ambassadors Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $22
Eric Baxter Boom Boom Room 6:30 pm, $17
Glass Master Mill Valley Ministry 8:15 pm, $16-$35

Classical & Opera

The Orchestra String Quartet performing works by Dvorak including Terzetto in C Major for Two Violins and Viola, Opus 74, Herbst Theatre, 10 pm, $24-$36
A Cultural Quest Alliance Jewish Emory Cultural Club at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 5 pm, $25

Experimental & Avant-Garde

The Official Rich Apocalypse of Big City Orchestra Cafe du Nord 5 pm, $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Chester Thompson Boom Boom Room 4 pm, $35-$45
Hector Cuernavaca Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $25-$77
Oakland Moore Herbst Theatre 8 pm, $27-$29
Charlie Hunter Jazz All-Stars Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 & 10 pm, $15-$24, $5 [illegible]
[illegible] & the Little Big Show Boom Boom Room 10:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Kaleidoscope w/ Judgement Day, the Hot Mess, Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $10-$12
The Lindbergs w/ The Passion Red Heads, Social Studies, Outland Tavern, 9:30 pm, $10
Oakland Quarter w/ Alden, Cafe du Nord, 5 pm, $12
[illegible] Quartet w/ [illegible] Hotel Utah, 5 pm, $8
The [illegible] Show The Independent, 5 pm, $20
Spandexed w/ Gaston, The Landlords, & Pagan Blonde, Kimo's, 8 pm, $5-$8
Nite w/ [illegible], Knifen, & Dreaming Dead, Slim's, 8 pm, $28-$30
Bruce Hallstone w/ The Chesterfields, Cyril's Out, Bimbo's 365 Club, 9 pm, $22

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

4OurFunction Elbo Room, 10 pm, $5-$10

SUNDAY 31

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

CLUB DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space 416 25th St., Oakland, 510-444-7263.
3D [illegible] Sports & Club 10090 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-8844-836.
5 [illegible] on Solano 1483 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-1237
924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926.
Air Bar & Lounge 492 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland, 510-444-2371
Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473, AlbatrossPub.com.
The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505.
Amoeba Music 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1125.
Anna's Jazz Island 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-841-5299.
Armando's 707 Marina Vista Ave., Martinez, 925-228-0085.
Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170
Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054
Aura 4825 [illegible], 925-[illegible]
Bay Street Mall 5615 Bay St., Emeryville.
Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790
[illegible] and Bar 51 & 17th St., Oakland, 510-444-2266.
[illegible] Center Media Arts 1601 Lincoln St., Alameda, 510-523-8852
[illegible] Bar 1201 Arroyo Way, Walnut Creek, 925-979-0131
The Bistro 1001 B St., Hayward 510-886-8525
Blakes on Telegraph 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-848-0886
Blakes on Telegraph (upstairs) 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-848-0886.
Caffe Trieste 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5198
Campo di Bocce 175 E. Vineyard Ave., Livermore, 925-249-9800
Club 1220 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550
Club Anton 428 3rd St., Oakland 510-463-0105
Club [illegible] 136 12th St., Oakland, 510-763-0834
Coffee Mill 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4224
[illegible] Lane 600 Ferry St., Martinez, 925-228-3347
Conga Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-463-2681.
Dan's [illegible] 1524 [illegible], Walnut Creek, 925-938-1238.
Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 415-785-8780
Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland 510-338-4911.
Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland 510-663-2350
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696.
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555
Fox Oakland 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, TheFoxOakland.com
[illegible] 871 [illegible] Rd., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
Freight & Salvage 1111 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-548-1761
Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley 510-642-0980.
Island Paradise Club 1430 Webster St., Alameda, 510-865-3225
Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley 510-845-5373
Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley 510-848-0237
Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St., Alameda 510-865-2385.
Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277
Karibbean City 1400 Webster St., Oakland, 510-238-0760
Kimball's Carnival 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-6979
King [illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley
[illegible] 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5404
[illegible] Ivy Room 850 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5680.
Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible]
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568.
La Taza de Cafe 3909 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-658-2373
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4793
Lakeshore Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland 510-893-2484
Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland 510-464-3543
Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda 510-523-4700.
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland 510-451-4677
[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill 1721 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7085
Maxwell's Lounge 341 13th Street, Oakland 510-839-6169
[illegible] 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2080.
Mountain Winery 14831 Pierce Rd., Saratoga 408-741-2822
[illegible] Club 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344
Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland, 510-238-[illegible]
Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland 510-763-1146
ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland 510-569-2121.
Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland 510-465-6400.
Peter's Restaurant 33 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette 925-[illegible]
Pleasanton Hotel 855 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-8106.
Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland 510-536-2050.
Radio 435 13th St., Oakland 510-451-2889.
[illegible] 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4817
[illegible] Roadhouse 1700 Clement Ave., Alameda, 510-337-[illegible]
Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland 510-444-7224
[illegible] 40911 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible]
Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-548-1159
[illegible] 2401 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Ste. 130, San Ramon
Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000
[illegible] [illegible] Lincoln Ave., Alameda 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2580 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-977-0988
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-5107
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]
Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174
Sweet Fingers 404 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-553-9500
Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100
[illegible] 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-531-3321
The [illegible] 2272 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, 510-451-[illegible]
Vinnie's Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord 925-680-8505
Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450.
[illegible] UC Berkeley, Berkeley 510-642-4750.
White Horse Bar 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-652-3820.
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-0588.
The [illegible] 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-836-9124

PICKS

Afiara String Quartet

The bar for the **Afiara String Quartet** [illegible]. Winners of the 2008 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, the Canadian ensemble was in residence at San Francisco State for two years and now holds the Juilliard School's Graduate Resident Arnhold Fellowship. The program is a winner, pairing Mozart's String Quartet No. 19 in C major, K. 465 "Dissonance" and Mendelssohn's String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13 with Alban Berg's twelve-tone *Lyric Suite*. And given that the concert is Tuesday night, you can also catch the Lamplighters' fabulous Gilbert & Sullivan *Patience* at the Lesher on the weekend. At the **Berkeley City Club** (2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley) on Tuesday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m., $15. 510-848-7800 or BerkeleyChamberPerformances.org *— Jason Victor Serinus*

Bowling for Soup

Blink-182 may have set the bar for arrested development in the world of pop-punk, but **Bowling for Soup** has used this mindset to reap loads of commercial success. Despite the group's collective age being considerably closer to middle age versus tweenerville, Bowling for Soup still pumps out scatological humor, double entendres, and pop-culture references to appeal to even the most jaded teen. It also doesn't hurt that the Texas foursome is kid-friendly enough to have had its songs featured in cinematic vehicles like *Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius*, *Sky High*, and *Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*. Currently touring behind the new album *Sorry for Partyin'*, the band shows its penchant for silliness in songs like "My Wena" and "Hooray for Beer." Bowling for Soup, along with **Just Surrender** and **Fight Fair**, will ensure a melodic regression at **Slim's** (333 11th St., San Francisco) on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m. $16. Slims-SF.com *— Dave Gil de Rubio*

Brass Menazeri

Brass Menazeri

Oakland's **Brass Menazeri** is one of the most dynamic bands of the current Balkan revival. The nine-member ensemble plays its own jazzy style of gypsy music with a repertoire that suggests a whirlwind tour through Macedonia, Greece, and Serbia. With seven horns blazing away and the driving percussion of drummer Brent Boyle, they explode across the stage with an uncontained, larger-than-life sound that's impossible to resist. Bring your dancing shoes. World music duo **Round Mountain** opens with its eclectic take on traditional music, playing rhythms from New Orleans, the Balkans, and West Africa. Brass Menazeri plays Friday, Jan. 29, at **Ashkenaz** (1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley), 9 p.m., $12. Ashkenaz.com *— j. poet*

Doug Carn

Florida-raised jazzman **Doug Carn** began making records at an interesting cultural moment: Miles Davis was hooked on James Brown, Afrocentrism was all the rage, and artists were pillaging ideas from mysticism and numerology. Naturally, Carn fit right in. Trained in reed instruments, he played alto sax throughout childhood and studied oboe at Jacksonville University while serving as a church organist every Sunday. In the 1970s Carn released a spate of albums on the Oakland-based Black Jazz label, some with vocals by his former wife Jean Carne. He also collaborated with filmmaker Melvin Van Peebles on a spoken-word LP called *As Serious as a Heart Attack* (Carn backed Van Peebles on keyboards). Though most of Carn's work was reissued in recent years, he remains more of a musician's musician — someone you learn about by digging in bins or talking to record store clerks. But his contributions to modern music are undeniable. Carn performs at **Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero, Oakland) on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m. ($18) & 10 p.m. ($16). Yoshis.com *— Rachel Swan*

Krisiun

Death metal doesn't get a whole lot more brutal than **Krisiun**. Hailing from Brazil (home to a long-thriving metal scene), the band plays an assaultive, authoritative style characterized by jaw-dropping technical precision and machine-gun-like riffs and drumming. While the trio — bassist/vocalist Alex Camargo, brothers Moyses (guitar) and Max (drums) Kolesne — hasn't changed its approach much since starting in 1990, it's managed to incrementally refine its sound, the most recent example being 2008's *Southern Storm*, a well-produced effort that explodes through the speakers. While the unrelenting pummeling can get a bit exhausting, Krisiun manages to change things up (relatively speaking) on tracks like "Minotaur" and "Whore of the Unlight." Surprisingly catchy with an underlying groove, this band is stunning live. Krisiun opens for fellow technical death metalers **Nile** with **Incantation** and **Dreaming Dead** at **Slim's** (333 11th St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m. $20-$30. Slims-SF.com *— Kathleen Wentz*

Krisiun.

Dr. K's Home Grown Blues [illegible] featuring Family Lewis, Three At Last, & Minor 5 Smith. Freight & Salvage. 8 pm. $14.50-$15.50

The Lowell Trio Amanda's, 3 pm, $10

[illegible] featuring [illegible] Yoshi's, 2 & 7 pm, $18-$28, $5 kids for [illegible]

The Starry Irish Session [illegible] Irish music w/ [illegible] Plough, 8:15 pm, sliding scale

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Ebony's Blues & Jazz Jam Zaire's Waterfront Restaurant and Nightclub, 5-10 pm, $10

[illegible] Quintet [illegible], 4:30 pm, $12-$15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Ashkenaz, 7 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Church by the Side of the Road, 5 pm, free

[illegible] Party Historic Sweet's Ballroom, 7 pm, $35

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Plough and Stars, 9 pm, free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Bach Soloists [illegible] Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 7 pm, $20-$45 general,

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C&C

[illegible] **[illegible] Space** Performing works by [illegible], Great events: [illegible], & [illegible] Theatre, 8 pm, $30-$40
[illegible] on [illegible] for Sunday [illegible] Space [illegible] Top of the Mark, 10 am-2 pm, $58 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] The Lab, 9 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 5 pm, $35-$45
[illegible] [illegible] pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 4 pm, [illegible]
[illegible] Trio The Rrazz, 7 [illegible] pm, free
[illegible] Jazz All-Stars Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 & 7 pm, $15-$24; $5 kids for matinee

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Oh Captain My Captain, [illegible], & [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $8
[illegible] featuring Joe Satriani, [illegible], The [illegible] All-Stars, & [illegible] & The Go Dogs, Slim's, 8 pm, $15
[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $30
[illegible] w/ The Moonlight [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $6
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Three Next Year, & The Fight, [illegible] of the Hill, 7:30 pm, [illegible]
[illegible] w/ The [illegible] Trail [illegible] Neeva's, 8 pm, $5-$8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible] Church, 7:30 & 11 am, free
[illegible] music and dance from the [illegible], Pella [illegible], 9 pm, $20
[illegible] & The [illegible] Project

[illegible] 8 pm, $4

MONDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible] 8 [illegible] pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Lloyd Gregory Yoshi's, 8 pm, $14

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Night plus special comedy guests, [illegible] Restaurant & Lounge, 8-11 pm, $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Irish [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Kenny Washington, [illegible], Pearl's, 4 & [illegible] pm, $10-$15
[illegible] Quartet Yoshi's San Francisco, 4 pm, $14

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free
[illegible] Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $8
The [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] The Restaurant, & [illegible], [illegible] of the Hill, 8:30 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] featuring [illegible] music, [illegible] Coda, 8 pm, $7

TUESDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The [illegible] Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1:30 pm, free
[illegible] Pete's Restaurant, 7-10 pm, free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] String Quartet Berkeley City Club, 8 pm, $12-$20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Cafe Rouge, 6:30 pm, free
[illegible] featuring students from the Berkeley music school, Jupiter, 4 pm, free
Kimberly Jackson Yoshi's, 8 pm, $12

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Coda, 9 pm, $5
[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $22
[illegible] & The [illegible] Quartet [illegible], 8 pm, $34-$45
[illegible] Verdi Club, 9:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Park Chalet Brewery, 6:30 pm, free
[illegible] w/ Happiness Project, [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $18
[illegible] Kimo's, 8 pm, $5-$8
[illegible] w/ Hooray For Everything, The Kremers, The Knockout, 9:30 pm, free
[illegible] w/ The [illegible], [illegible] of the Hill, 8:30 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ The [illegible], Slim's, 8 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] & The [illegible] Hands, Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

CLUB DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

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[illegible] [illegible] Haight St., 415-831-1200
[illegible] 812 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] & Lounge [illegible], 415-362-[illegible]
[illegible] Restaurant and Wine Salon 448 Brannan St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Club [illegible] Cabrillo St., 415-831-5620
[illegible] [illegible] Great Highway, 415-386-8439
[illegible] [illegible] Mission St., 415-285-[illegible]
[illegible] 1025 Columbus Ave., 415-474-0365
[illegible] [illegible] Mason St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] of the Hill [illegible] St., 415-621-4455
[illegible] 1[illegible] Mission St., 415-[illegible]
Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016
[illegible] International [illegible] Haight St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Vallejo St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Club [illegible] St., 415-431-3332
[illegible] 312 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
The Cellar 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678
[illegible] 285 9th St., 415-255-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Green St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
Coda 1710 Mission St., 415-551-2000
[illegible] Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000
[illegible] [illegible] Leavenworth St., 415-775-5810
[illegible] 314 11th St., 415-626-1409
[illegible] [illegible] 3rd St., 415-643-[illegible]
The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St., 415-626-0880
[illegible] [illegible] Geary St., 415-885-4074
[illegible] [illegible] 16th St., 415-437-6248
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-282-3245
[illegible] [illegible] Valencia St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Geary St., 415-[illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] 9th St., 415-[illegible]
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] Ave., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] American [illegible] Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750
[illegible] [illegible] Polk St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Theatre [illegible] Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400
[illegible] 508 4th St., 415-546-6000
The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421
[illegible] & Grill [illegible] Geary Blvd., 415-[illegible]
Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave., 415-291-8255
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St., 415-954-0777
The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Mission St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Columbus St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 3225 22nd St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 444 Jessie St., 415-[illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] West Portal Ave.
[illegible] [illegible] Sanchez St., 415-[illegible]
Park Chalet Brewery 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
[illegible] [illegible] Powell St., 415-[illegible]
Pier 23 [illegible] The Embarcadero, 415-362-5125
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Polk St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] 16th St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Clement St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St.
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 465 Cortland Ave., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] 11th St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 333 11th St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Gallery [illegible] Mission St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Club [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Bar 561 Geary St., 415-[illegible]
Temple 540 Howard St.
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
Top of the Mark [illegible] 999 California St., 415-616-6916
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Broadway St., 415-[illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] Mason St., 415-775-1722
[illegible] and Lounge [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
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Americanidades: Music from Across The Americas
SUN 31 TRIBUTE TO PAT PARKER
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Gomo w/ The Cleanup, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $7

Mocifica Infusion Lounge, 7 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 3

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Fender Goodie & Friends Annabelle's, 8 pm, $3

Whiskey Brothers old-time and bluegrass, Albatross Pub, 8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 pm, free

Mike Wollenberg solo jazz guitar, Italian Colors, 6:15-9:15 pm, free

Will Ginoski piano music, Campo di Bocce, 6-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Dig This! Area music showcase presented by Pirate Cat Radio. This week: 7Orange-AXE, Club Creamer, & Red Plant, Uptown, 9 pm, free

Black Alibrite w/ Time Crisis, The Rare Veers, Stork Club, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Country Jam w/ Jeanie & Chuck Poling and Stuff, 8 pm, free

Ultra "Kid" showcase Bospolo & Rivers, 8 pm, $35

Saul Williams performs at the DNA Lounge on Jan. 29

Classical & Opera

Zelli Valley Living Dash — Selections from the Bach Suites Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $23

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

Dan Marcotte and the Doodoo Doodoo Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

Paula West & the George Mesterhazy Quartet Plush Room, 8 pm, $35-$45

Raja Kiyet w/ guitarist Bobby Chabb III, Wisteland Restaurant and Lounge 7-10:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Bowling for Soup w/ Jess Sanchez, Fight Fine Times, 8 pm, $18

The Doodoo Party w/ The Hat Fashion, Tempo: No League & Fighting The Villain Sisters of the Mill, 8:30 pm, $10

Gone Gone (NW) w/ Mach, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $5

Great Little Mouse w/ La Sabulle, Venusayle, Death to The West, & Doodoo and Band, Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $8

Ivy Hous Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $6

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Freddy Clarke and la Banda Latin flamenco, Mediterranean, & contemporary folk, Pala Pocomoma, 8 pm, $12 ●

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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SAT 1/30 9PM $8 — ERIC MCFADDEN'S FARAWAY BROTHERS / THE OLD PUPPIES

THU 2/04 9PM FREE — THE JUGTOWN PIRATES / BLVD PARK

FRI 2/12 9PM $12 — GUITAR PLAYER MAGAZINE PRESENTS MONTE MONTGOMERY

SAT 2/13 8:30PM $10 — MORTIFIED

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 28

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJs [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & top 40, White Horse Inn, 9 pm, $5, [illegible] w/ valid ID

Club Fever w/ [illegible] spinning reggae & dancehall, [illegible] 10 pm, free

DJ Adell spinning [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ Jerry Black spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more, Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

DJ Trick spinning lounge, Lost Weekend Lounge, [illegible] pm, free

Pleasantries [illegible] R&B, Kingman's Ivy Room, 9 pm, free

Shadow Block w/ [illegible] spinning reggae, African, salsa, cumbia, Brazilian, [illegible] 7 pm, free

Club the Edge w/ DJ the Reverend [illegible] spinning power pop, mods, & glam, Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] & host MC [illegible] spin classic hip-hop, reggae, & soul, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

Shadow Society spinning [illegible], [illegible] Uptown, 10 pm, $5

Tasty ladies' night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B, Club 21, 9 pm, $12-$15

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 DJs [illegible] spin '80s & new wave, Cat Club, 9 pm, free before 9:30 pm, $6

Bingo [illegible] The Knockout, 7:30-10 pm, free

DJs Dave [illegible] & Club spinning funky [illegible] & underground hip-hop, [illegible] pm, free

[illegible] The EndUp, 10 pm, $10

Represent w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop classics, funk, soul, dancehall, [illegible] & breaks, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, $5

Toppa Top Thursdays w/ [illegible] reggae, Club Six, 9 pm-2 am, $5, free before 10 pm w/ RSVP

Tropicana Night [illegible] spinning Salsa, [illegible], Reggaeton and Merengue, [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, free

FRIDAY 29

EAST BAY

Back to the Friday [illegible] plays tracks from the '80s, [illegible], 9 pm, free

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15

Foreplay featuring DJs [illegible], Club Anton, 10 pm, $8-$20

Friday Night [illegible] w/ guest DJs spinning [illegible], Crest [illegible] Club, 10 pm, $5

Latin Explosion DJ [illegible] spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, [illegible], Spanish pop, & more, [illegible] 9 pm-2 am, $8-$15

Mandala weekly in-house DJ [illegible], [illegible] 7:30 pm, free

Old-Friend hip-hop [illegible], Radio, 9 pm, free

Gabriela [illegible] soul, funk, Latin, & [illegible], Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

[illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Tonight w/ DJ [illegible] spinning northern soul, [illegible], '60s, disco, punk, new wave, & soul, Ruby Room, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] open house [illegible] w/ Latin & [illegible], Cat Club, 10 pm, $8, free before 10:30 pm

Designer Drugs [illegible] Mezzanine [illegible]

[illegible] 9 pm, $17

DJ Tom [illegible] and [illegible], 10 pm, $5

Flashback Friday DJs [illegible], Daniel B, [illegible] The Cellar, 10 pm, free before 10 pm, $10 after

Fridays at the [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & world, [illegible] 9 pm, free

[illegible] Paradise [illegible] 10 pm, $10

[illegible] 222 Hyde, 9 pm, $5, free before 10 pm

VIP Fridays w/ [illegible] from the Bay Area and around the world spinning hip-hop, [illegible] 9 pm, $17

SATURDAY 30

EAST BAY

[illegible] DJs [illegible] & Soul [illegible] spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop, Maxwell's Lounge, 9 pm, $10

Freaky Dooky [illegible] hip-hop, R&B, mash-ups, and rock, College Lane, 9 pm, free

House Saturdays Club 1220, 9 pm, $5

Lost Saturdays [illegible] 9 pm, $6

[illegible] Farmers Market [illegible] at 2:00 a.m., Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

Mixtape w/ DJs [illegible] & Gabriela, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

Boogie Night Conga Lounge, 10 pm, free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, [illegible] Lounge, 9:30 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] Forbes [illegible], 10 pm, $20

DJ [illegible] Swig, free, 9 pm, free

[illegible] **Saturdays** w/ DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], rock, & mash-ups, [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, $5

Haiti-Aid featuring DJ sets by [illegible], [illegible], Stone King, [illegible] & White [illegible], 9 pm, $10-$25

Seduction w/ DJs spinning hip-hop and soul, The Cellar, 9 pm, free before 10 p.m., $15 after

Club Lounge DJs spinning [illegible], urban top 40, & funky house, Cat Club, 10 pm, $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Sleep, 9 pm

SUNDAY 31

EAST BAY

[illegible] featuring DJs [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, free

[illegible] fundraiser for bartender [illegible] Mendoza, [illegible], 6 pm, free, donations accepted

[illegible] **on a Sunday Afternoon** DJ Sergio spins soul, funk, disco, Latin house, jazz, reggae, & more, [illegible], 2 pm, free

Mojo w/ DJ [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & Afrocentric old-school, [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, free

The [illegible] DJ [illegible] & guests spin soulful grooves, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

Wedding Gifts DJ [illegible] & old-school [illegible] & Broadway staff, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] & guests spinning [illegible], [illegible] classics, [illegible], 9 pm, $5

Honey Sundays w/ [illegible] spinning [illegible] music, [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, $12 after 11 p.m.

Sunday T-Dance w/ DJs [illegible], John Hopkins, [illegible], [illegible], John Carly, & more, The EndUp, 6 am-8 pm, $10

MONDAY 1

EAST BAY

DJ Dose spinning dub, ska, & soul, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Club 1220, 9 pm-2 pm, free

Underground Lounge [illegible] '70s music, [illegible] 10 pm-2 am, free

Wedding Gifts DJ [illegible] spins [illegible] & old-school or live & Broadway staff, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] **Club** Glas Kat, 9:30 pm, $5 before 10 pm, $6

[illegible] live [illegible], [illegible] followed by DJs spinning all things "[illegible]" and [illegible], $6

[illegible] classic soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, [illegible], Afrobeat, & more, [illegible], 10 pm, $3

Skylarking w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible], spinning mods, [illegible], dancehall, and reggae, Skylark, 9:30 pm, free

TUESDAY 2

EAST BAY

Country Music Night plus line dancing, Club 1220, 8 pm, free

DJ Joe Dose spinning [illegible] & Latin funk, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ Amidy's DJ [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning hip-hop [illegible], [illegible] 9:30 pm, free

In the House DJ [illegible] spins soulful, sexy, & funky music, [illegible] Lounge & Gourmet Pizza, 9 pm, free

Stay Punk! w/ DJ [illegible] spinning mods, [illegible], & metal, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

[illegible] Hang Out! w/ DJs spinning rock, [illegible], & soul, Ruby Room, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Change the Rhub w/ DJs [illegible] spinning [illegible] and funk rock, plus [illegible] guests, [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ Showcase hip-hop, [illegible], Club [illegible], 9 pm, $5

[illegible] hip-hop, & [illegible] plus live guests, [illegible], 10 pm, $5

The Block [illegible] rotating live bands, plus DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spinning [illegible] at the [illegible] Lounge, The Knockout, 10 pm, $6

WEDNESDAY 3

EAST BAY

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] songs from the '80s, plus drink specials by [illegible], Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Latin cowboy night w/ host [illegible], [illegible] 9 pm, $6-$15

[illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & guests spin reggae & dancehall, Kingman's Ivy Room, 10 pm, free

[illegible] 9 pm, free

Voodoo Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & rotating guests spin salsa, cumbia, merengue, reggaeton, & more, [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Bondage-a-Go-Go go-go [illegible], plus DJs spinning [illegible], Glas Kat, 9:30 pm, $5 before 10:30 pm, $7

[illegible] DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, reggae, & [illegible], The Cellar, 10 pm, free

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Whether gay, bi or straight, it (almost) never hurts to ask

Dan Savage

I'm a single (mostly) gay guy who is curious about women. A hot, bisexual mate is interested in a friends-with-benefits arrangement. However, his girlfriend doesn't know he's bisexual, and I'd feel uncomfortable having sex with him behind her back. My mate would like his girlfriend to know about him because he'd really like to have threesomes with her (something I'm up for), but he's worried about how she'll react. Personally, I'd be more concerned about how she might react if she found out about his sexuality some other way. That's why I err on the side of honesty. However, I'm not exactly unbiased. What should I do?

Horny Homo

How about a little honesty mixed with a little dishonesty? Your mate should offer his girlfriend the boy-girl-boy threesome that all modern young women fantasize about. (Blame *Twilight*.) If your mate is worried that she'll react negatively, he can tell her it was your idea. She'll want to know if his mate is going to want to get into his pants. Your mate should shrug and say, "Maybe," and depending on the look on her face end with either "but I don't think I'm interested in going there" (leaving open the possibility of "getting carried away" during the threesome) or "and I might go there if that would turn you on" (making any boy-on-boy action something he did for her).

If the threesome is a success and you two wind up playing with and in front of her, your mate can come to the shocking realization that he's bisexual. This will hopefully lead to future threesomes and, perhaps, at some point, her blessing for some boys-only time. If she objects, your mate can blame her for "making" him bisexual — or making him realize it.

I'm a woman whose "super-hetero" boyfriend has revealed that he fantasizes about m-m-f threesomes. I've asked him if he is turned on by the idea of another man's penis, and he says no, he just wants to see me have sex with another man. Yet when he describes his different fantasies to me at the peak of arousal, he says he gets off on the idea of double penetration — one penis in my anus, another in my vagina — and wants to feel the other man's penis bump up against his own, separated by my innards. Do you think he is bisexual or bi-curious? We intend to enact this fantasy, and I wonder if it could shift the dynamic of our relationship.

Threesome Curious

It can be hard to predict whether a man will have an epiphany during an m-m-f threesome and come to the sudden and shocking realization that he's bisexual. He's obviously more aroused by male-male contact than he's capable of admitting. This fantasy of his isn't just about wanting to gangbang a girl with a buddy. Your boyfriend wants to bump penises with another dude — but with your own lady "innards" providing the "no homo" absolution.

But I don't think you need to extract a full confession of bi-curiousness or even hetero-flexibility before you realize this fantasy. He may not be in denial about what his desires add up to, TC. He just may want to check his fantasies about male-male contact against the reality of male-male contact before he tells you what he suspects: He's a little bit bisexual.

I have an uncle who calls me "faggot" whenever he and I are alone in the same room. He's a conservative straight Mormon. I'm a boy who's had sexual encounters with guys and girls, and I'm trying to figure out my own sexuality while dealing with all of the other stuff that comes with going off to college, and frankly I don't need his crap. Do I tell my parents? I'm kind of bi right now, so he's half right, but what business is it of his?

Uncertain Nephew Craving
Levelheaded Explanation

Your uncle is hitting on you, UNCLE, in his fashion — that is, the fashion of the tormented, self-hating, conservative/religious closet case. If you don't want to find yourself standing there with your uncle's tongue stuffed in your mouth someday, I would advise you not to spend another moment alone with your asshole uncle. And yes, tell your parents what he's been doing. Because, UNCLE, if he ever makes a pass at you and a scene ensues, your uncle is going to insist that you made the pass at him.

I'm a 31-year-old gay man. My boyfriend and I have enjoyed a few threesomes with other men, so I assumed I could share a particular fantasy of mine. I've never had sex with a woman and I want to. I am not questioning my sexuality. I'm not bi, and I have zero desire to date women. But my boyfriend immediately accused me of having issues with my sexuality, and after a two-week fight I dropped it. Fast forward to just before Christmas: I received a promotion, moved to a new floor, and one of my new female co-workers has been coming on to me. First problem: She's married. Second: we're co-workers, and she has even more to lose than I do. Is there some other way to bring this fantasy up to my boyfriend again, or should I just let it go?

Flirting With Danger

I'm shocked that a man who's willing to share his boyfriend's ass with other men would react so violently to your curiosity about lady innards. But seeing as the direct approach prompted a two-week-long fight, I can't imagine you would have much more success with the indirect approach. Since you're not strictly monogamous and the boyfriend's not strictly rational about this, FWD, a case could be made for satisfying your lady-innards curiosity on the sly and filing the affair under "what he doesn't know won't hurt him." But I can't think of a worse set of lady innards to satisfy your curiosity with than this woman's. You could wind up losing your job and your boyfriend if the affair got ugly and got out.

Wait, FWD, wait. In time, some other guy-outards-curious lady will come along, and perhaps by then your boyfriend will have come around.

Find my podcast at TheStranger.com/savage
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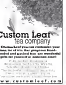

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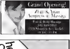

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